

Trade Centre defendants get 240 years each in prison

NEW YORK (AP) — Three persons convicted in the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Centre were sentenced Tuesday to 240 years in prison. The judge called one a coward for planting a bomb "to kill innocents." The Feb. 26, 1993, bombing killed six people and injured more than 1,000 in the 110-story twin towers, the world's second-tallest buildings. Mohammad Salameh, Nidal Ayad and Mahmoud Abu Halimi were sentenced first. A fourth defendant, Ahmad Ajaj, was to be sentenced later. U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy sentenced them after hearing a statement from the husband of a pregnant cleric who was killed in the explosion. "I'll never get a chance to see him grow up," Ed Smith said of the boy his 34-year-old wife, Monica, was carrying. "We all lost this because of four men who wanted to blow up landmarks in New York." Mr. Salameh, 26, a Palestinian immigrant, was convicted March 4 on charges of conspiracy, explosives charges and assault. In a half-hour speech in Arabic, which was translated via an interpreter, he proclaimed his innocence and accused the U.S. government of covering up the real story of the bombing. "I wonder how long I will remain in prison until the government reveals I was innocent."



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Israeli planes bomb S. Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes divebombed Shiite Muslim guerrilla bases Tuesday in apparent retaliation for rocket attacks on an Israeli-occupied area in South Lebanon. The hostilities heightened tensions following the weekend abduction by Israeli commandos of Mustafa Dirani, a Shiite guerrilla leader, from his house in east Lebanon's Bekka valley. Shiite militants have vowed to avenge the kidnapping. Security sources in South Lebanon said Israeli fighter-bombers were scrambled five times within 30 minutes against Hezbollah's key hideout of Iqsim Al Tuffan, or Apple Province, beginning at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT). Smoke from burning pine trees shrouded the region as warplanes repeatedly pounced from clear skies to hit and streak away. All released scattered red balloons that deflected heat-seeking surface-to-air Strela missiles fired by guerrillas. No hits were observed. The Israeli command said its planes returned safely to base from bombing missions against a Hezbollah training base and launching pad for attacks by the organization. Hezbollah and hospitals in the region said there were no civilian or guerrilla casualties from the air strikes.

U.N. disarmament meeting opens in Hiroshima

TOKYO (AP) — China and North Korea were notably absent from the annual conference on disarmament which opened in Hiroshima, western Japan, Tuesday. The four-day United Nations sponsored conference is to discuss nuclear non-proliferation and a ban on nuclear testing at a time when North Korea is suspected of pursuing a nuclear weapons programme in parallel with its civilian undertaking. At the plenary session, Yohei Kono, leader of Japan's opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called for a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests by August next year, the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city. Experts and officials from 19 countries are attending and are expected to discuss transparency in armaments and closer regional dialogue.

Muslim Brotherhood say Egypt government cracks down

CAIRO (R) — A leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood, for decades Egypt's only tolerated platform for Islamist opposition, said on Tuesday the government was cracking down on the group. Ahmad Seif Al Islam Al Baraa said supporters were arrested for distributing leaflets in Cairo mosques over the Muslim feast of Eid Al Adha on Saturday, and a prominent sheikh was prevented from delivering his sermon to thousands of worshippers. "It is clear the government is taking tougher procedures now against the Muslim Brotherhood," he said. Until now the government has focused on tackling a two year campaign of violence by the militant Gama'a Islamiya (Islamic Group), in which nearly 400 people — mainly police and militants — have been killed. The Brotherhood, Egypt's oldest Islamist group, seeks to establish a purist Islamic state in Egypt through peaceful means, unlike the Gama'a which advocates violence. President Hosni Mubarak and Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf both indicated in recent interviews they might toughen their line against the Brotherhood, which is officially banned but in practice has been tolerated as a platform for religious activists since the 1970s. Mr. Al Alf said the leading role of Brotherhood supporters in a demonstration last week by lawyers "confirms their links with terrorists and terrorism." He said the demonstration, organised to protest the death in police custody of an Islamist lawyer, represented a "new wave of terrorism against the police."

Crown Prince: Worst appears to be over, but much remains to be done in search for peace

Jordan will not sign peace treaty before resolving issues on agenda

All forms of anti-Semitism, extremism are rejected

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday that although making peace in the Middle East has been arduous and fraught with dangers, "we appear to be over the worst" in the search for a negotiated and comprehensive settlement.

But the Crown Prince warned that much remains to be done if the Arab-Israeli conflict is to be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

"We are past the point when symbolic gestures, televised worldwide, carry currency," the Crown Prince said in a lecture he delivered at the London-based Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), a professional body founded in 1831 and dedicated to the study, analysis and debate of issues affecting defence and international security.

"We have arrived at the point when the substance of peace must be negotiated in detail; when the foundations of a new Middle Eastern order must be laid, block by block."

"In a world that is still seeking a new rationale and order for itself after the end of the cold war, the search for peace is constantly fraught with hidden dangers. The search for peace in the region has been arduous and at times intractable. I am pleased to state that we appear to be over the worst."

"I have come before you today to speak of Jordan's quest for peace. I will speak of peace in the Middle East, for that is

discussed and settled to the satisfaction of all. We seek to strike a balance between the need to address the agenda items on the one hand and the need to implement interim agreements and arrangements to sustain the momentum of peace on the other."

After the lecture, Prince Hassan responded to questions related to Arab intelligence and the media, anti-Semitism, racial discrimination and extremism.

Voicing his rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism and extremism, the Prince called for solutions to humanitarian issues through agreements by the followers of the three monotheistic religions in a spirit of equality and co-existence.

Following is the full text of the lecture which was entitled "Making Peace in the Middle East".

It is an honour and a pleasure to address the Royal United Services Institute on the complex topic of "Making Peace in the Middle East".

Many of you are familiar with the study and logistics of warfare as well as the politics of making peace. I am in a position to assure you that is



latter is far more difficult to achieve. It is simple to wage war but it is not so easy to conclude a just and lasting peace. Our experience in the Middle East has shown that making peace is constantly fraught with hidden dangers. The search for peace in the region has been arduous and at times intractable. I am pleased to state that we appear to be over the worst.

I have come before you today to speak of Jordan's quest for peace. I will speak of peace in the Middle East, for that is

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Arafat cancels Israeli law in self-rule areas as Israel shuts border with Jericho

Hamas warns PLO not to give in to 'Zionist' pressure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat took a first step to asserting legal authority over the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip with an order cancelling laws enforced by Israel during 27 years of occupation.

An announcement by Mr. Arafat published in two Jerusalem-based Palestinian newspapers instructed civilian and religious courts in Gaza and Jericho to operate under the laws that existed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before Israel occupied the territories during the 1967 Middle East war.

It was Mr. Arafat's first assertion of legal authority over Gaza and Jericho, where Palestinian self-rule began this month under an Israeli-PLO peace accord signed in Washington last September.

"Laws, regulations and orders that were in effect before June 5, 1967, in the Palestinian areas West Bank and Gaza Strip shall remain in

effect until they are unified," said the order signed by Mr. Arafat. It said the measure took effect from last Friday. Israel said Arafat could not change the law without Israel's approval.

Meanwhile, Israel sealed the Jericho for 24 hours after PLO police disarmed three Jewish settlers in the city.

"This is to enable Palestinian police commanders in the city to complete their organisation and to explain to all police stationed in the city their authority as established by the (Israel-PLO) declaration of principles," the army said.

A Palestinian policeman told Reuters there had been at least one previous incident since Palestinians took over security from Israel's last week in which the force demanded settlers leave over their weapons.

The policeman cocked his weapon... I immediately pulled down the (policeman's)

Still angry at a speech by

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat earlier this month, Mr. Rabin told reporters at Nahal Oz checkpoint:

"We will insist that it be clear the continuation of the process beyond Gaza and Jericho will be tied to the Palestinians proving their ability to fulfil their commitments in Gaza and in Jericho and to a pointed reaffirmation of this commitment..." Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin, taking his first close look at Gaza since Israel handed the territory over to Palestinian rule last week, stood a few metres from a sign which identifies the area as Palestinian-ruled and informs Israelis they need special permission to enter.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, at the entry to Gaza, threatened on Tuesday to slam the door on future deals with the PLO unless it reaffirmed its commitment to peace with Israel.

Israeli officials, incensed by Mr. Arafat's May 10 speech at a South African mosque four days after signing the Gaza-Jericho accord in Cairo, originally demanded a written reaffirmation of his commitment to

(Continued on page 5)

Scud attack on Sanaa kills 15

Beidh acknowledges north is advancing

SANA (Agencies) — At least 15 people were killed and more than 80 were injured when a missile crashed into the capital Sanaa in the second such attack on the northern stronghold in Yemen's civil war, rescuers said Tuesday.

Three families were unaccounted for 12 hours after the Monday evening strike and it was not immediately clear if they had escaped it or were buried under rubble.

Rescuers used shovels and bare hands to claw through the wreckage of flattened houses in search of victims.

Sanaa Radio vowed revenge, saying the missile was fired by southern Yemenis whose capital, Aden, was hit by a missile — apparently fired by the north — a day earlier.

"The cowardly criminals will

not escape punishment and both the people and the armed forces will inflict just punishment on them," Sanaa Radio said.

Since fighting began, more than 28 Scud missiles have been fired against northern Yemeni targets. One hit a Sanaa residential area on May 11, killing 23 men, women and children.

The Defence Ministry in Aden, the newly declared capital of the breakaway state of south Yemen, denied having fired a missile and said the north was trying to divert attention from a missile attack on Aden on Sunday night which killed eight.

The new southern Yemeni President, Ali Saleh Al Beidh, on Monday night warned that Sanaa's firing of missiles at

Aden could force the south to revoke its earlier decision to stop using Scud missiles.

He was speaking to reporters two hours after the attack on Sanaa of which he appeared to be unaware. He was in the eastern port of Mukalla from which communications are difficult.

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Lebanon protests to U.N. over Israeli abduction of Dirani

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon on Tuesday lodged a protest with the United Nations over Israel's kidnapping of a Muslim guerrilla chief, Foreign Minister Farès Bweiz said. The protest note charged that Israel violated Lebanon's sovereignty, jeopardised its security and carried out an "act of piracy" when it abducted Shiite Muslim leader Mustafa Dirani on Saturday, Mr. Bweiz said. A senior foreign ministry official said Lebanon also called on Israel to release Mr. Dirani and said Beirut had the right to call for a Security Council meeting. Dirani was snatched from his home in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in a slick pre-dawn operation by airborne Israeli commandos. Israel holds Mr. Dirani responsible for the capture of missing airman Ron Arad, whose plane was shot down over south Lebanon during a bombing raid of Palestinian refugee camps in 1986. Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on Tuesday denounced the abduction as "an act of piracy and terrorism which runs contrary to international law and proves that Israel is not serious in the search for peace."

Princess Saleha, sister of King Abdullah, laid to rest

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Saleha, daughter of the late King Hussein Bin Ali and sister of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom, Tuesday was laid to rest at the Royal Cemetery.

Her Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, led the Royal Family and other mourners in the funeral procession for a service at the Royal Guard Mosque.

Draped in the Jordanian flag, the Princess' coffin was carried by army officers from the mosque to the cemetery. The burial ceremony accorded the late Princess, who was born in the Hijaz, full honours and a 15-gun salute.

Following the funeral ceremony, the Regent, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, Prince Ghazi Bin Mohammad and Prince Ra'd Bin Zeid received condolences from mourners.

The prime minister, Cabinet members, Parliament members, heads of government departments, heads of diplomatic missions and high ranking army officers were among those to pay their respects to the Royal

The late Princess Saleha Family.

The Royal Court Monday evening announced the passing of Princess Saleha, at the age of 110.

Condolences by men will be accepted at Rghadan Palace, and by women at the residence of Sharif Naf'a Bint Jamil, Second Circle, Jabal Amman, opposite the former prime ministry. Condolences will be accepted until Thursday evening.

250 pilgrims killed in Mecca stampede

MECCA (AP) — As many as 250 people were trampled to death during a symbolic "stoning to death" ritual of the annual pilgrims to Mecca, Islam's holiest city, security officials said Tuesday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials said victims of Monday's crush included 182 Turks, the others were mostly Lebanese, Pakistanis and Indonesians.

But in Ankara, Mehmet Nuri Yilmaz, chairman of Turkey's Religious Affairs Department, said only five Turks died.

Lebanon's state television said nine Lebanese were among those trampled to death, and Tehran's evening newspaper Kayhan said six Iranians died.

Adding to the confusion was Kayhan's report, which said the death toll from the stampede was 700. The report was attributed to "unofficial sources" in Mecca.

Up to 8,000 Palestinians from various parts of the Gaza Strip accompanied the convoy of PNSF vehicles from the entrance of Gaza to Khan Yunis in the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

Banners proclaiming the martyrdom of Mr. Asfour were evidently organised by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, as was much of the funeral ceremony.

Although head of all Gaza-based Palestinian Security Forces Major General Nasr Youssef has called on all Gazans who were not members of the official security apparatus to hand in their weapons, Mr. Asfour's funeral showed just how many guns were in Gaza.

A man wearing a black mask and shouting pro-Hamas slogans into a loudspeaker shot at least 20 rounds of ammunition into the air as uneasy police men looked on.

Mr. Asfour's funeral was said to be the Gaza Strip's largest since the intifada began in December 1987.

The claim by both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement that Mr. Asfour came from their ranks enabled them to turn his funeral into a large Islamic rally and a forum for

(Continued on page 3)

Upon the Occasion of
INDEPENDENCE DAY



Middle East News

N. Yemen tribesmen collect spoils of war

ATAQ, Yemen (R) — Tribal militiamen with Kalashnikovs and pick-up trucks followed the northern Yemen army into the southeastern town of Ataq Monday to collect the spoils of war abandoned by southern secessionists just a day before.

Colonel Ali Al Gufali, commander of one of the advancing northern brigades, said more than 2,000 southern troops pulled out of Ataq Sunday afternoon after a nine-hour engagement in which the only casualty was one southern soldier killed.

More than 100 gave themselves up. "They didn't fight very seriously," he said.

The town of Ataq, the capital of Shabwa province and about 270 kilometres northeast of the old southern capital Aden, was firmly in government hands Monday with no signs of fighting or resistance.

The paved road west towards the town of Beyhan was busy with traffic, mostly pick-up trucks loaded high with furniture, mattresses, and household appliances looted from the Ataq base and other institutions previously controlled by the mostly southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beidh declared a separate state in the south Saturday but the only territory he controlled is a

small area around Aden and the eastern province of Hadramawt and Mahrah.

The main significance of the fall of Ataq is that the southerners can no longer use the airfield there for refuelling their planes.

At the airfield Monday, two ground combat planes stood in protected bays.

Colonel Gufali said the southerners had abandoned them. He said they also left behind 50 tanks and 300 to 400 artillery pieces.

Asked about the looting, which took place within sight of army officers, the colonel said: "The tribes came and looted while we were busy, now we've stopped them. But they were a great help to the army."

One of the looters said with a grin: "From the people to the people."

The centre of Ataq was full of soldiers and tribal militiamen, who came to town in their hundreds, dressed in sandals and coloured Yemeni shirts, and draped in bullet belts.

The militiamen said they were fervently unionist southerners. Some were members of the militia of the General People's Congress, the party of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and of the tribal federation to which

Saleh belonged. They did not touch private homes or shops, which remained firmly bolted and padlocked.

Colonel Gufali said many civilians had fled because of the fighting or had gone to the countryside for the Muslim feast of Eid Al Adha.

Most houses on the road west of Beyhan were also deserted but it was not clear where the people had gone. Neither the southern authorities nor the United Nations had reported an influx of refugees into southern controlled areas.

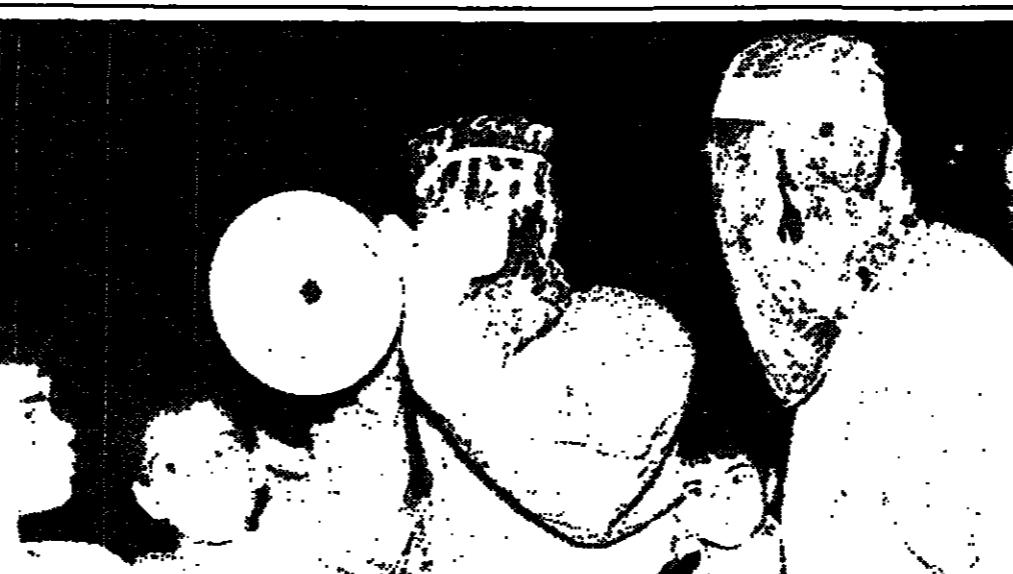
The colonel said the southern force from Ataq had fled eastward and had left Shabwa province completely.

By capturing the base, the northern army had opened the way to Mukalla, the second largest town under YSP control.

"If we wanted to go to Mukalla, we could go there straight away," he said. "But we are waiting for our next orders."

Shabwa is one of Yemen's oil-producing regions but production there is insignificant at around 5,000 barrels a day.

Both sides in the conflict control much larger oil fields in areas so far unaffected by the fighting.



ISLAMIC JIHAD: Masked Palestinian militants of the Islamic Jihad, opposed to the peace process, use a loud hailer to claim responsibility in their killing of two Israeli soldiers at Erez

Junction, north of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli army sealed off the area until May 29, following the attack (AFP photo)

Lack of water is a major problem in Gaza, West Bank

By M. C. Jaspersean
USIA

WASHINGTON — Water is the issue looming in the Middle East's future, and two Israeli experts have briefed congressional staff members on the subject at the Capitol.

Israel is "trying here to open a window... and I think that this agreement... peace in the Middle East, opens a lot of opportunities to Israel — to its role in the Middle East, and to the people who live there," said Israeli Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur.

The official was speaking under the auspices of the International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC), an independent, nonprofit organization offering "hands-on expertise in arid and semiarid lands research," whose participants include the University of Arizona, University of Illinois, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, the Jewish National Fund, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

The consortium, dedicated "to exploring the unique problems and solutions of arid and semiarid regions," concentrates on "the study and use" of such land and the "provision of expertise in areas such as water conservation and harvesting, development of stress-tolerant plants, agroforestry, range management, fire control, remote sensing, and drought mitigation."

Describing the region as arid and 90 per cent desert, Mr.

Tzur said that what is most distressing is that the desert is expanding, rather than contracting, with erosion overtaking "more and more of the green parts." He called it "essential" that the region take serious steps to halt desertification.

Elihu Rosenthal, expert adviser to the Israeli peace talks delegation on water issues, explained that when Israel occupied Gaza in 1967, water in the region was already being over-consumed by 2.3 times what the given water levels could sustain annually.

By 1993, that figure was down to 1.7 times the amount that should be pumped on a yearly basis, Mr. Rosenthal said. While Gazans "do over-pump" he added, it is now "at a lower rate in order to stabilise the conditions."

Nevertheless the figures are still "worrysome," given the population increase from 600,000 inhabitants in Gaza in 1967, to 800,000 today. With the population doubling every 15 years, be cautioned, "it's actually a much worse" situation when it comes to meeting inhabitants' needs.

Mr. Rosenthal explained that the big issue in the Gaza region is the "over-exploitation" of desalination methods, which have led to an inflow of sea water, brine, and heavy agricultural and municipal pollution, all of which conspire to destroy water quality.

Now, he said, as Gaza begins self-rule, its hydrological system is totally separate from that of Israel's, and "solutions will have to be found (by the

Palestinians) on their own."

But Mr. Rosenthal noted that this is not the case in the West Bank, where, "if any of the two peoples sitting on this territory will over-exploit water... both parties will be damaged." The reason is that the undrinkable saline water — rather than fresh water — will eventually rise to the surface.

There is yet a greater problem throughout the Middle East, he noted: "We have here a basic problem of water rights... Who has the right to the water upstream? Downstream?" Mr. Rosenthal asked.

"The bottom line," no matter where the shortages and the controls are, "is that over-exploitation of water in the Middle East will certainly harm... everyone."

He said that when considering the problem of water for future generations in the region, "we specialists all over the Middle East, whether Jordanians, Israelis, Egyptians or Palestinians, we still don't know the answers and (yet) must find them — to the salinity questions, to the volume of fresh water above the salt."

"This has never been studied

sufficiently," nor has there been adequate investment in the question of water. The situation constitutes "a major problem," requiring "a regional programme of cooperation for the study of salinity, accompanied by deep drilling... research... sharing of that (knowledge)" with an enhancement in "professionalism."

South Yemen takes its revenge

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — For Southern Yemen, its declaration of independence was revenge for four years of stagnation since unification with the north.

The merger of north and south had turned into an "annexation," according to Ali Salem Al Beidh, the sacked vice president of unified Yemen who Saturday proclaimed the Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR).

The declaration — so far without international recognition — came after more than two weeks of clashes between Mr. Beidh's southern troops and President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern forces.

The civil war erupted after a nine-month political crisis over the running of the country, with Mr. Beidh insisting on decentralisation while Mr. Saleh accused the south of working for secession.

The southerners have accused Mr. Saleh of not dividing the budget evenly for the development of the provinces and failing to check poverty in Yemen, one of the world's

poorest nations.

According to Western reports, four years of unification between the conservative, tribal North and former Marxist South Yemen have failed to stem structural decay.

Illiteracy is running at 46 per cent of the male and 85 per cent of the female populations, average life expectancy does not exceed 47 years, and the infant mortality rate, 131 per thousand, is among the worst in the world.

The Gross National Product is stagnant at between \$500 to \$700 per year per capita.

But the southerner's main grievance since unification on May 22, 1990 — was that Mr. Saleh's rule failed to produce reform to face up to the most serious challenge, the exploding population rate.

The population of Yemen is expected to increase from the current 14 million to 35 million in the year 2015, as 54 per cent of the population are 14 years old and below.

Yemenis will then account

for 60 to 65 per cent of the population in the entire Arabian peninsula, according to Western reports.

Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has said it raised the alarm and urged Sanaa to make use of resources, including the 320,000 barrel per day oil production, to lay down the basis of a development programme.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh signed a reconciliation agreement in Amman on Feb. 20, but it failed to curb clashes later the same month between northern and southern army units.

Failure to start implementing the deal on decentralisation prompted YSP leaders to gather around Mr. Beidh in the southern stronghold of Aden, regenerating the structure of the former South Yemen.

Southern officials have said they wanted to escape the bleak economic and social prospects of union, and also to break free of the northern grip and that of the Islamic Party Al Isla which backs Mr. Saleh.

Big power cataclysms eased Israel out of Gaza

By Bradley Burston
Reuter

TEL AVIV — For many Palestinians, the 27 years that passed before Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip felt like forever.

But the withdrawal under Israel's peace deal with the PLO might have taken much longer had it not been for bedrock shifts in the roles of faraway superpowers.

The U.S.-led Gulf war and the breakup of the Soviet Union were crucial in turning the Israel-PLO relationship from relentless blood feud to uneasy partnership in Palestinian self-rule, analysts said.

An Israeli Defence Ministry strategic analyst said the end of the cold war was a kind of "declaration of inde-

pendence" that allowed both Israel and Palestinians to secretly conclude the peace deal they signed in Washington in September.

"With the U.S. and post-Soviet Russia as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, the sides could move forward knowing that Syria, a pivotal player, would be limited in its response over being 'left out' as the sides moved forward," he said.

"Syria, without Soviet might at its back, simply doesn't have the same crack to its whip," said the analyst, who declined to be identified.

Joseph Alpher, director of Israel's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said the collapse of the Soviet Union created a one-superpower world that paved the way for Israeli-PLO peace.

"When the U.S. led the coalition in the Gulf war it

thrust itself as that single superpower into the Middle East in a way unprecedented in the last 50 years," Mr. Alpher said.

Most of the PLO's Arab allies backed Washington's move, and the organisation's support for Iraq took a crippling toll.

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"In siding with Iraq, the PLO emerged from the war in a position of weakness unique in its history," Mr. Alpher said.

"It had effectively burned its bridges with the Arab World, with (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat persona non grata in most Arab capitals, in Cairo, in Riyadh, certainly in Damascus."

The PLO lost its traditional financial aid sources, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait,

and its coffers emptied rapidly.

"Clearly, this had a rather major influence on Arafat's readiness to make compromises," Mr. Alpher said.

Mr. Arafat's money woes also compromised his ability to counter a rising threat to his leadership posed by Islamic militants who capitalised on anti-Western undercurrents among Palestinians.

Keen to overcome them, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline opposition to talking to PLO killer terrorists, Washington brought muscular leverage to bear.

Mr. Shamir, reminded by the administration of Israel's vulnerable high profile as the largest single recipient of U.S. foreign aid, agreed to meet Palestinians not explicitly tied to the PLO when Middle East talks began in

Madrid in October 1991.

"Shamir got an offer he couldn't refuse," Mr. Alpher said. "But he has made it pretty clear what his real intentions were."

A bitter foe of edging occupied Arab land, Mr. Shamir said after he was crushed by Yitzhak Rabin in a 1992 election he had intended to drag out the peace talks for 10 years.

Winds from Washington blew warmer after the poll, as Mr. Rabin announced a partial freeze on Jewish settlements and promised Palestinian self-rule in the occupied lands within a year.

The Bush administration promptly announced the granting of \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israeli immigrants.

Washington has since signalled its approval in gifts of used aircraft, and sales of an

advanced version of the F15 warplane.

The Palestinians have also begun to reap U.S. benefits from the peace deal, with the administration twisting allies' arms to wing aid donations for the occupied lands.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, visiting the new Jericho self-rule zone in the West Bank, reiterated an American promise to supply Palestinians \$300 million in aid over the next five years.

Despite the fact that thousands are starving in southern Sudan after a drought and the effects of an 11-year war, Mr. O'Brien said two foreign donors had decided to send funds destined for Sudan to help victims of the Rwanda crisis instead.

Yet U.N. officials said aid workers in the field were reporting alarmingly high malnutrition rates in many parts of the vast south.

Aid workers say Sudan crisis being forgotten

NAIROBI (R) — Aid workers have said southern Sudan was gripped by widespread fighting and hunger but that the plight of thousands was being forgotten as the world tired of one of Africa's longest wars.

Delegates from the Khartoum government and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) were expected to sign an agreement opening land, river and train routes across battle lines after weeks of on-off talks in Nairobi, officials said.

Some aid workers believe that despite the effects of drought, the reason for widespread hunger is that people are being driven from their homes by fresh fighting and they are in areas almost inaccessible for the delivery of food.

But while the warring parties dithered at the negotiating table and battled it out in the swamps and bushlands of the south for months this year, donors spent millions of dollars airlifting food to the region.

One transport plane being used by the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) costs about \$900,000 to charter, aid officials said.

The U.S. and U.N. have paid for the aircraft only up to mid-June.

The talks in Nairobi, brokered by regional African states, have not even begun to discuss the issues of a ceasefire

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Ordy
18:00 N.B.A. sport
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Historie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:10 Too Close for Comfort
21:00 Prism
21:10 The Best of Magic
21:30 The World of The Thirties
22:00 News in English
22:20 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise)
12:32 Dhuhr
16:33 'Asr
21:03 Magrib
21:34 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifield, Tel. N10740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
Chapel of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrance Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm with winds north-westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, warm weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/Max. temp. 20/24
Aq



LAID TO REST: Pallbearers Tuesday carry the coffin of Her Royal Highness Princess Saleha, daughter of the late King Hussein Bin Ali and sister of the late King Abdullah

Bin Al Hussein, to her final resting place in the Royal Cemetery (Petra photo)

Crown Prince says worst is over

(Continued from page 1)

surely no conflict is insoluble. The events of the past year have opened the door to peace in the Middle East. The mutual recognition of the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO and Israel gave the region an unprecedented opportunity to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a conflict that has taken its toll on us all. The recent implementation of their historic agreement over Gaza and Jericho is another step in the right direction. But we must be under no illusions about the difficulty of our task. Future war must be made inconceivable, the wounds that have kept Arab and Israeli apart must somehow be healed.

There is a tendency in the news media to focus on the most recent and dramatic developments in discussing the Middle East. For many of you, the massacre of Muslim worshippers that took place in Hebron earlier this year may be yesterday's news. The question has direct relevance to the recent events in the occupied territories and in Israel. Within the security framework, the problem of Israeli settlements must be resolved. Their questionable legality notwithstanding, the settlements represent a time-bomb which may be primed whenever a group of settlers, or any other organisations opposed to peace-making, wish to derail the peace process. Peace cannot be made and should not be made under such circumstances.

We have submitted several proposals to deal with such issues, and stand ready to undertake project studies in these fields. We believe that a Boundary Commission will help to resolve the issue of boundaries, and we have put forward this proposal as a concrete contribution to the architecture of a lasting regional peace. On the issue of refugees, we are negotiating within the parameters of international law.

Another issue that will demand considerable attention is the final status of the holy city of Jerusalem. A city revered for its shrines and its history by Muslims, Christians and Jews alike must be the ultimate symbol of peace. It is our belief that the religious significance of Jerusalem is such that its status is a truly international concern. It cannot be settled by Israelis and Palestinians alone, for the holy city should not be subject to the exclusive political control of any state. In determining the future of Jerusalem, Jordan believes that a vital distinction needs to be made between religious and political sovereignty. We have formulated detailed proposals to effect such a distinction, for we believe that a proper resolution to the Jerusalem question is essential in the search for peace.

We have also implemented several substantial confidence building measures. We have re-opened Jordanian bank branches in the occupied territories, in order to assist in the development of the Palestinian economy. To the same end, we have signed an economic cooperation agreement with the Palestinians, and participated in the training of Palestinian police officers. We have established the Trilateral Working

Group to look at issues of interest to Jordan, the U.S. and Israel, and this group may now be promoted to ministerial level. We are optimistic about the prospects for a Middle East economic conference and for a Jordan Rift Valley development concept, but are awaiting positive developments in this field. We are, of course, prepared to consider other mechanisms to build confidence.

While engaged in the substance of negotiation, Jordan has been considering more long-term mechanisms to deal with the legacies of the conflict in a reciprocal manner. We have evolved a vision of a new regional order, underpinned by a number of political and economic mechanisms that could help render future conflict unthinkable.

Attention has been focused on practical measures to generate a process for regional security and cooperation. The promotion of sustainable models of negotiation to resolve all outstanding regional disputes is increasingly necessary when the ultimate goal is a peaceful Middle East without barriers. An example exists in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

While this organisation has faced its share of criticism, particularly in dealing with conflicts such as that in the former Yugoslavia, it has successfully articulated a code of conduct for times of peace. This is precisely what the Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of EFTA or NAFTA — would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour must be a vital prerequisite; for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

Of course, many outstanding issues must be resolved before such a vision can be realised. Even under conditions of peace, the disparity between the Israeli economy and those of the other regional parties, particularly the core parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, demands appropriate measures to fashion a balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the EU are worth considering in this regard.

Within the context of a regional security regime the size, role and function of armed forces in the individual states of the region are likely to undergo radical changes. The transformation would be in favour of peace keeping. Jordan's armed forces have led the way in this respect. Our personnel are already serving in this capacity under the U.N. command as far afield as Mozambique, Liberia and in former Yugoslavia. More significantly, Israel's military superiority and the organic bond established with the U.S. through the doubtful syndrome of "arms for flexibility," or "hardware for software," which was devised by Henry Kissinger, would have to be considered and reassessed under a regional security system. Regional security must be both in scope and substance.

Regional security must be both in scope and substance. As shared values and aims take root, the notion of favoritism will become increasingly irrelevant.

Jordan signed a common agenda for peace talks with Israel last year. The common agenda represents a significant achievement, but it is no more than a first step on the road to peace. There is still much to be achieved, and much to be negotiated, before the attainment of a comprehensive

peaceful, and increasingly insurmountable.

Clearly, the region comprises a diverse collection of peoples, who nevertheless share many historical experiences and perspectives. The European Union has conceptually divided the Middle East into three main areas: The Maghreb, the Mashreq and Turkey. From Jordan's point of view, at the epicentre of the region, the Middle East straddles and extends beyond the frontiers of Europe and Asia. It is integrally tied to both continents, with the Mediterranean serving as a link, rather than a barrier. In the long term, the future of the Middle East and that of Europe cannot be separated. In this ever more inter-dependent world, the interests of our two regions are increasingly at one. It would therefore be wise, in formulating strategies for the future of the region, to consider the European experience; for we in Jordan believe that the Middle East can have no future unless it evolves a global vision, backed up by sub-regional and regional instruments. The next step would therefore be to consider which instruments would be appropriate.

A free-trade zone across the Middle East, allowing for the free movement of labour, goods, capital and services, would represent a significant achievement to this end. Arrangements for a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of EFTA or NAFTA — would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour must be a vital prerequisite; for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

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A GATT-EU approach may be the best way to deal with the economic legacies of the conflict, and to put the region on a viable, sustainable economic footing. Jordan believes that in seeking to evolve a healthy trade and investment regime, the experience of other countries — such as the Zone Franche arrangements between Geneva and France — will be invaluable. The European Commission has recently stressed the need for a common regional vision as a basis for co-operation in the Middle East. In a communication on this subject, it states:

"Partnership requires balanced economic development. If cooperation is to succeed it is essential to reduce excessive disparities in income levels between potential partners in the region." It adds that:

"Cooperation should go in two directions: the pooling of common capacities and the

Jordan marks independence anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today marks the 48th anniversary of its independence from Britain.

The Kingdom achieved its independence in 1946, fulfilling one of the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which was the liberation of Arab countries from foreign domination.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that modern Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein strongly adheres to the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, launched by the late King Hussein Ben Ali earlier this century.

King Hussein put the Kingdom's stands into practice through his response to the Arab summit meetings which were designed to unify Arab ranks and deal with the Palestine problem, said Petra.

It is in implementation of these principles and stands that Jordan joined the Arab-Israeli peace talks and called for an international conference to help re-establish peace and security in the Middle East, said the agency.

On this occasion, said Petra, Jordanians recall the numerous achievements of the Kingdom under the reign of King Hussein who dedicated his life and efforts to serving his nation.

Wednesday has been declared a public holiday to mark the anniversary. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed.



The late King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



AL ADHA PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday leads worshippers at prayers on Al Adha feast before his departure with Her Majesty Queen Noor on a several-day visit to the United Kingdom. After the prayers, the King, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, other members of the Royal Family, the prime minister and senior government officials visited the tombs of King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein, King Talal Bin Abdullah, Queen Zein Al

Shara and Queen Alia where they recited verses of the Holy Koran. Prince Mohammad, who led Royal Family members and dignitaries to bid farewell to the King and Queen, was sworn in as Regent before Their Majesties' departure. The King and Queen are accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher, the chief of the Royal Court (Petra photo)

Peace forces head for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — Another group of security forces Tuesday left Amman for Croatia to join the U.N. peace keeping forces there. The group was seen off by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Rahman Al Uidwan who delivered a brief address to the force before its departure.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by 20 Jordanian and Iraqi artists (including Wadih Orfali, Hussein Da'seh, Wadih Al Ward, Adnan Al Hilu and Mahmoud Hassouna) at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaima (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreib and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Al Mashkiki at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).

★ Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Toumi at Baladina Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Funan of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabbal Al Laweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

10 pilgrims die during Haj

MUDAWARAH (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi announced Tuesday that 10 Jordanian and Palestinian pilgrims who had gone to Mecca for the season's Haj, which ended with Al Adha feast Saturday, died of natural causes.

The minister added that he was satisfied with the services offered to the pilgrims by health and other missions accompanying the pilgrims.

According to Saudi Arabian health ministry sources, 829 pilgrims died as a result of overcrowding, old age or heart conditions.

There were 646 cases of sun stroke and 5,752 cases of worshippers suffering from exhaustion.

Congratulations to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and the people of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
ON
THEIR INDEPENDENCE DAY

NIPPON KOEI CO., LTD.
Consulting Engineers
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4, Kojimachi 5-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
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Gazans mourn

(Continued from page 1)

anti-peace slogans. PNSF members actively participated in Tuesday's funeral to make their presence felt. Peace slogans appeared not to irritate them as much as the guns sported by Hamas members. "Soon, very soon," said Palestinian police officer Rayes, "only the Palestinian police-men will have guns," he said.

Jordan Times

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Justice on death row

THE HARSH treatment of the Egyptian Bar Association at the hands of Egyptian security forces last week when members of the legal body protested the mysterious death of one of their colleagues was an affront to the entire legal profession worldwide. The police in Cairo used brutal force to disperse the protesters including firearms, tear gas and physical force. It so happens that lawyers are considered and treated as part of the state's judicial arm and any threat to their physical safety and interference with the conduct of their duties are an affront to all systems of government.

This latest episode against the legal profession in Egypt started when one Egyptian attorney at law, arrested on April 26, died during his detention. Under all civilised norms, the death of a detained person, any person, calls for an immediate inquiry. This much the Egyptian authorities did not do and in the process fuelled further suspicions that the dead lawyer lost his life due to ill-treatment, including torture, for his role in defending Islamists.

Members of the Egyptian Bar Association had all the reasons to suspect foul play, and the least that could be expected of them was to demonstrate their collective wrath and demand an effective investigation. Why the Egyptian authorities chose the counter-effective way of dealing with this case and in the process drew harsh criticism from all corners of the world is still a puzzle, given Cairo's public commitment to human rights and democracy.

The fact that lawyers in Egypt can be handled so brutally and illegally casts doubt on the depth of the Egyptian democratisation process.

The Egyptian people can now legitimately claim that if members of the judicial arm of government can be so roughly handled and even shot at for merely asking questions about the sudden death of a colleague while in custody, then they have little chance of receiving protection from arbitrary detention and mistreatment. Cairo can still rectify this stand-off with the Bar Association by probing deeper not only in the yet unexplained death of the Egyptian lawyer but also into the entire situation that ensued. This is important since Egypt should serve as a good example of human rights' protection and promotion, especially when it comes to the legal profession in view of the fact that the country's legal profession is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the Arab World and the African continent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FOR THE first time in 27 years, Al Adha feast this year had a different and more pleasant taste for the Palestinians who have just started their autonomy rule, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Thousands of men and women met after a very long break and absence, and many dreams were fulfilled after a long period of occupation, said Sultan Al Hattab. Those who have returned to Gaza and Jericho are mere vanguards of the multitudes of Palestinians expected to return to their homeland in two years time from now, said the writer. Al Adha feast was a real occasion for the Palestinians to rejoice over the return of Jericho and Gaza to Palestinian rule, and it was a moment for the people to reflect on the benefits of the peace process, which enabled this dream to come about, said the writer. No one has dreamed of the possibility of regaining the usurped homeland through negotiations and no one had imagined that Al Adha feast this year would have a double rejoicing for the Palestinians, he added. The writer expressed hope that the return of Gaza and Jericho would open the door wide for further progress along all tracks and eventually achieve the long aspired peace.

REFLECTING on the sad situation in war-torn Yemen during Al Adha feast, a columnist in Al Dastour said that the Yemeni leaders should have taken lessons from civil strife that had devastated other parts of the Arab World and opted for dialogue and reason. The Yemeni leaders should have learned the lesson of Lebanon where warring factions succeeded in devastating their country in the name of protecting Lebanon's interests, said Saleh Al Qallab. It is most regrettable to see Yemeni leaders sacrificing their nation's interests at the altar of selfishness during the holy occasion of sacrifice in Al Adha feast and disregarding the innocent lives they are ending and the achievements of their country that are being ruined, said the writer. He said the Yemeni leaders should realise that those encouraging them to continue the fratricidal war are their real enemies and the enemies of unity in the Arab World.

Washington Watch

A master plan for repairing the damage of the occupation

PALESTINIAN POLICE have entered Gaza and Jericho to the jubilant welcome of Palestinian residents. The transfer of authority having taken place, the first phase of Palestinian self-rule is set to begin.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) faces difficult responsibilities in the days and months ahead, and it must design and implement major projects to repair the damage incurred under 27 years of harsh and brutal occupation. World Bank (WB) and aid projects have been proposed for major infrastructural developments in housing, road building, electrification and sanitation among others. A master plan must be shaped that will prioritise projects and set timetables for their implementation.

But while such three to five plans are being developed, there is a need to address some short-term needs as well. One's vision must not be so broad or so focused on the future that immediate needs are ignored.

Unemployment in Gaza is staggeringly high, the physical environment is a mess and for thousands of young people, the only organised activities have been demonstrating and throwing stones at the Israeli military.

Resolving needs such as these will not wait for major infrastructural projects to be developed. Immediate steps must be taken to bring the unemployment problem down to a manageable level, improve the quality of life, get people invested in nation-building and organise and direct youthful energy. Without such steps, the region will not become stable enough to allow for a peaceful transition to self-rule.

So as the long-term projects are being developed and ground is being broken for infrastructure work, and while the foreign private sector capital seeks out long-term investment opportunities in the territories, let me propose some immediate and admittedly humble public sector and public-private sector cooperative projects that would contribute to solving short-term problems and creating a more stable and hospitable environment in Gaza and Jericho.

The creation of a Gaza environmental corps

Both the problem of unemployment and the need to clean the surface environment of Gaza could be tackled by the creation of a Gaza environmental corps (GEC). This entity could function somewhat like the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930's — an emergency public works job creation programme. The CCC was designed primarily to offset the massive unemployment left in the wake of the Great Depression, but also worked well to tackle the very serious environmental degradation in the American Midwest. But the rate of unemployment in Gaza is higher than in the U.S. at the peak of the depression and the environmental problems are more serious.

By recruiting up to 2,000 young Palestinians, the GEC would absorb a significant number of the unemployed. It

would provide them with uniforms and training to organise environmental clean-up, waste disposal and other small clean-up projects throughout the Gaza Strip.

In addition to gainful employment (with the multiplier effect that would have on the local economy) and a cleaner, more hospitable area, this GEC would enable the residents of Gaza to restore a pride in their land and some immediate sense of improvement in their environment.

A programme like the GEC must from the outset be defined as a short-term project to be replaced by whatever public works entity is created by the Palestinian National Authority. It can be assumed that within six months construction and other major infrastructure projects could be underway which will create more needed jobs.

Gaza-West Bank soccer league

One of the major challenges facing the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian society in general is the absence of organised youth activities in Gaza and the West Bank. For many young people the activity of the intifada filled a void. And even now, for many, gathering in groups and throwing stones at Israeli settlers and soldiers remains their only outlet for youthful energy.

As the occupation slowly recedes, the need for organised youth activity will become even more apparent. One Palestinian academic noted that "our children need to be given a chance to be children again. They need to go back to school and back to play."

One of the best ways to provide that opportunity for the children of the West Bank and Gaza is to create a national West Bank-Gaza soccer league. Such an organised youth programme would operate in every town and village and provide leagues and teams for different age groups. The teams would compete on their local level and in inter-community matches.

A proposal has been developed to provide fields, uniforms, shoes and balls for eight such community-based leagues, which would create an organised recreational programme for up to 6,000 young people.

Creation of a micro-investment fund

While major investment projects for the West Bank and Gaza have been designed by international agencies and foreign investors, the Palestinian economy as it now exists is comprised primarily of very small establishments. Of the 3,688 industrial enterprises in the West Bank and Gaza, 60 per cent employ fewer than four workers and only 7.5 per cent employ more than 10 workers.

As small as they may be, these establishments are creative and dynamic and make a significant contribution to the economy of the territories. They have been able to adapt to a harsh occupation and not only succeed, but in many instances to diversify and grow. It is important, then, that as plans are developed to expand the Palestinian economy, the strength of these small-scale enterprises not be ignored. Failing to support these businesses would be detrimental not only to the economy of the West Bank and Gaza, but to the social fabric

of Palestinian society as well. If Palestinians were to lose their small business sector, such a loss would negatively affect the individual entrepreneurship and initiative so important at any stage in development.

Not all of those small businesses can or will grow, but those that can require access to relatively small amounts of capital to purchase raw materials, take on additional employees, improve their product or gain access to new markets.

The local craft industry is a case in point. Long recognised as an important component of the Palestinian economy as well as in the social and cultural fabric of Palestinian society, the craft industry has fallen on hard times. In 1967 there were 3,000 individuals employed in the commercial sector of the craft industry making items from olive wood, mother of pearl and glass. Today there are reportedly less than 300 so employed.

It is expected that with stability and peace there will be an increase in tourism. This, along with the new opportunities for Palestinians to export their products, will provide expanded markets for the craft industry.

To enable growth, to meet these new opportunities, and to meet the expected increased demand for their products, the small workshops that produce handicrafts need access to small amounts of capital to purchase the materials required to increase production and to bring workers back into the craft.

A micro-investment fund that would provide small, low-interest loans (or no-interest loans with payback based on the sale of the final product) would greatly enhance the prospects for this significant sector of the economy (and an important vehicle for the preservation of Palestinian history and culture) to expand and prosper.

Such a revolving micro-investment fund would play a critical role in assisting all export-related industries in Gaza and the West Bank, including the agricultural sector, where it has been estimated that a revolving fund of four million dollars could help support the export of over \$25 million in agricultural exports annually.

Projects such as these are not intended to replace the larger and more dramatic high-impact undertakings that are envisioned by the World Bank, the Palestinian National Authority and individual Palestinian entrepreneurs. But groundbreaking for those projects is still months away and the need in Gaza and the West Bank are immediate.

Implementing short-term, low-cost and small-scale projects will help address realities on the ground while those larger projects are being planned, making it possible to bring the fruits of peace more quickly to thousands of Palestinians in the newly autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho. Such projects will have an immediate impact in improving the environment, helping to create the stable and hospitable situation needed for major investors to operate in the area with confidence.

Providing opportunities for the indigenous private sector to grow will also contribute to preserving the structure of Palestinian society and give the Palestinians of Gaza and Jericho a direct personal investment in ensuring the success of the nation-building now underway.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.

Two decades on, Indian nuclear plan still a puzzle

By Moses Manoharan
Reuter

BOMBAY — Exactly two decades since joining the nuclear club, India is still struggling to calm international fears over its intentions in one of the world's potential flashpoints.

On Wednesday, the 20th anniversary of India's only nuclear test, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao seeks to allay those fears in an address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

India insists its nuclear programme has peaceful aims, but critics, led by arch foe Pakistan, insist it has military ends, and thus threatens regional peace.

P.K. Iyengar, India's former Atomic Energy Commission chairman, in a commentary published on Wednesday, said India's first and only nuclear explosion, on May 18, 1974, "shook the world." In doing so, it served its purpose and made further Indian nuclear tests unnecessary, he said.

Analysts say that India, despite fighting three wars with Pakistan since they gained freedom from Britain in 1947, believes nuclear-armed China is the region's main military threat. India and China fought a brief border war in 1962.

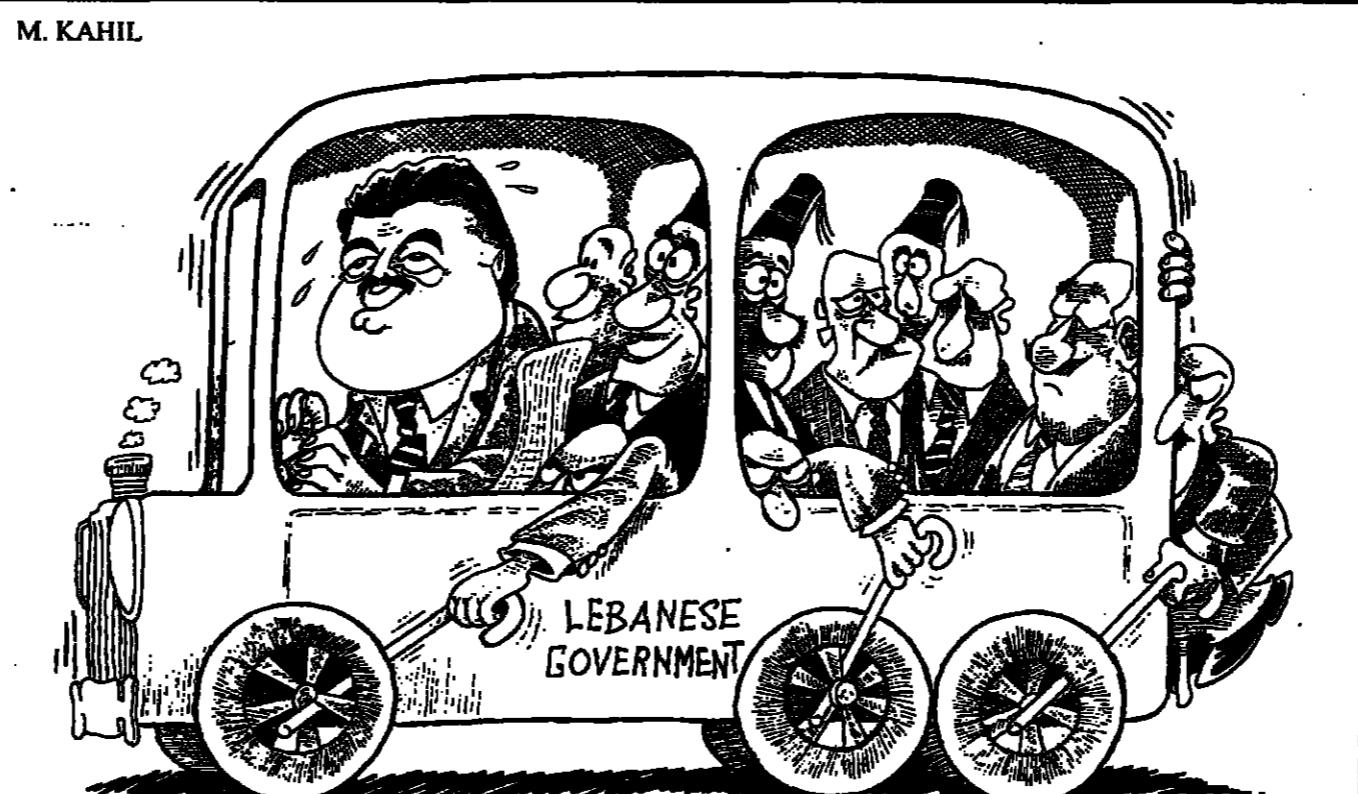
That belief is at the root of New Delhi's reluctance to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Washington considers the NPT key to continue warming relations after decades of cold war distance.

To curb nuclear proliferation, Washington proposed capping, reducing and ultimately eliminating what it believes are India's and Pakistan's nuclear weapons programmes.

If both countries agree to that initiative, Islamabad could take possession of 38 paid-for U.S. F16 jets in return for a verifiable cap on its suspected nuclear weapons programme. The deal would include Indian participation in multilateral talks on South Asian security.

"For the Indian public to be pacified, there must be a flamboyant gesture from the United States and China," said Mr. Nandy, of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, a New Delhi think-tank.

Mr. Nandy speculated possible gestures could include China pulling its missiles far from India's borders.



New Russia parliament alive but not kicking — yet

By Anatoly Verbin
Reuter

MOSCOW — The new Russian parliament, which emerged from the blood-stained ruins of its predecessor, is alive but not really kicking — yet.

In its four months of life, the legislature has generally avoided open confrontation with President Boris Yeltsin.

He in turn is trying to avoid the outward hostility which marked his relations with the old parliament during 1993.

The question is — will it last until presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 1996? or will Russia stun the world again by a plunge into political violence?

The answer is unclear, but there are some indications that Russia's political calm will not last.

For the time being, "tank syndrome" seems to be prevailing. The opposition, both outside and inside parliament, has yet to get its act together fully since Mr. Yeltsin's tanks crushed a bloody uprising by supporters of the old parliament in October.

But a new opposition centre is slowly forming around former vice-president Alexander Rutskoi, one of the leaders of the revolt. He is pressing for early presidential elections and is unrepentant

over his role in the bloodshed.

"The aim of the political opposition is to celebrate the next (World War II) victory day in May 1995 without Mr. Yeltsin's regime," he told his supporters recently.

The new parliament consists of two separate bodies.

The part-time Federation Council Upper Chamber consists mostly of regional bosses and is chaired by Mr. Yeltsin's ally, Vladimir Shumeiko.

Its only clash with the president came when it rejected Mr. Yeltsin's choice of Russian prosecutor-general.

But many analysts predict more tensions with the Kremlin when it comes to approving major laws, dividing power and money between Moscow and the regions.

In the State Duma Lower House, a full-time 450-member body, Communists, conservatives and ultra-nationalists outnumber reformers.

Preoccupied with moving from one place to another and with determining its staff, privileges and other "organisational matters," the Duma is not yet doing what it was designed for: producing laws.

It infuriated Mr. Yeltsin in February by pardoning the October mutineers, as well as hardliners who led a 1991 coup attempt against Mikhail

Gorbachev. But, steered by Speaker Ivan Rybkin, the Duma has taken a more conciliatory line since then.

Mr. Rybkin, a Communist Party member elected on the ticket of the conservative Agrarian Party, has quickly emerged as a major political figure in Russia and distanced himself from all extremes, sticking to a generally centrist line.

He presides over a colourful body.

Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, a big and unexpected winner in the December elections, talks about restoring the old Russian empire and extending it to the Indian ocean, sending alarm waves across the world.

Neighbours to him are Yegor Gaidar and Boris Yefimov, former key reformers in the cabinet and darlings of the West.

Anatoly Lukyanov, former head of the Soviet parliament who had been charged with playing a leading role in the 1991 coup, sits by Sergei Kovalyov, a Soviet-era dissident.

One deputy has been murdered in what police, who have not finished their investigation, have already called a "combination of business, politics and crime."

Another deputy shot dead a Georgian in a murky incident he said was a mafia

extortion bid.

The best illustration of the Duma's lack of a clear political stance was its approval last week of the 1994 budget proposed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's government.

The cabinet is more centrist now after the departure of radical reformers early this year but is generally pursuing a reformist line and its budget met the main targets of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Ironically it was the Communists and Agrarians, stubbornly refusing to drop their opposition to Mr. Yeltsin, who voted for the budget plan. It was the supporters of Mr. Gaidar and of another liberal economist, Grigory Yavlinsky, who voted against it.

"The only conclusion one can come to is watching how the budget was passed is (that) such things do not happen in a decent country," said the liberal Sevostyan newspaper.

Mr. Yeltsin stripped Russia's parliament of much of its power in drawing up a new constitution, approved by referendum last December. But he still needs its cooperation if he is to make progress with the business of reforming Russia.

Whether he will get it remains to be seen.

By Dr. James

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Arabs neutral in Yemen war, but south benefits

By Yousef Azmeh
Reuter

DUBAI — Arab countries officially are neutral in Yemen's civil war but their pressure for a truce in effect favours southerners resisting the northern president.

"They are putting the burden of compliance on President Ali Abdullah Saleh and he does not seem to like it," said one Arab diplomat in the Gulf.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been the most outspoken in criticising Yemeni leaders for resorting to violence to settle disagreements on how the unified country should be run after the 1990 merger between North and South Yemen.

He criticised Mr. Saleh, without mentioning him by name, when he said in an interview broadcast last week that a capture of the southern capital Aden would be tantamount to occupation.

Yemen's immediate Arab neighbours, who have in the past been accused by Sanaa media of favouring Mr. Saleh's southern arch-foe Ali Salim Al Beidh, have implicitly rejected Mr. Saleh's claim to be Yemen's only legitimate authority.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd on Sunday received Mr. Beidh's envoy Saleh Abu Bakr Bin Hussaini. Saudi official media said he had delivered a message from the Yemeni vice-president and referred to Mr. Hussaini as the Yemeni oil minister.

Mr. Saleh had earlier sacked both men from their official positions and branded them as rebels.

Mr. Hussaini has received the same official recognition in all the Gulf Arab states he has visited as well as Egypt and Syria.

"This is very important. Major Arab countries are telling the Yemenis they do not accept his version of events... that he must reach an accommodation with the south," the Arab diplomat said.

Mr. Saleh's envoys such as Foreign Minister Mohammad Basenwa have been received as courteously.

But Mr. Saleh remains unpopular among Gulf Arabs and in states like Syria and Egypt that joined the alliance to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war because he showed sympathy for Baghdad at the time.

Pro-Saleh commentators, among them Islamic militants who oppose southern Yemen's socialist leaders, have

also spoken of backing for Beidh among Gulf Arabs who, they say, fear a strong, united Yemen in the strategic southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula.

But diplomats and military experts in the Gulf see little evidence of foreign interference in the Yemen war so far.

Mr. Saleh reacted angrily when the Arab League called a special meeting to discuss the Yemen war shortly after full-scale battles erupted on May 4, saying it was a domestic affair.

Arab Gulf leaders are traditionally reticent in their official statements and those on Yemen so far have been confined largely to calls for ceasefire and reconciliation.

Official media reported United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan as calling for a truce when he received Mr. Basenwa on Sunday and urging Yemen's leaders to use dialogue and logic rather than force in settling their row.

But diplomats in the region said that Mr. Mubarak was reflecting a widely held Arab view when he said that if the north captured Aden, it would not mean a solution to the problem nor would war guarantee that Yemen would remain united.

"I am for peace and stability. We are for unity but using force will never lead to unity. On the contrary, it will spark off acts of revenge," Mr. Mubarak said in his radio interview published in the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram*.

Entering Aden would mean occupation and the peoples would not look on it as unity, he said.

Most Arabs say the Yemen merger, hailed at the time as living proof that Arab unity was possible, should be maintained.

But a few voices are starting to argue that it may be better for the two Yemens to separate once again.

"It is better for the Yemens to reach the reality of divorce now rather than reaching it tomorrow or the day after... At least they would have souls," said Ahmad Al Jarallah, a leading Kuwaiti journalist writing in Al Seyassah.

Only Jordan has taken what seems to be a pro-north Yemen stand, with its official media referring to Mr. Saleh's government as the "legitimate" government to the southern leaders as "secessionist" forces.



"NATURAL KILLERS: Armed Jewish settlers stand at the entrance of Kiryat Arba' settlement in Hebron where many fanatic immigrants from the U.S. live (AFP photo)

U.S. Vietnam vets bring hatred, war techniques to West Bank

By Marjorie Olster
Reuter

KFAR TAPUACH, West Bank — A U.S. Vietnam veteran, using tactics he learned in jungle warfare, once spread defoliant on a grove of olive trees Palestinian stone throwers used for cover in the occupied West Bank.

A Vietnam helicopter pilot, now firmly grounded in Jerusalem's Old City, accidentally shot up a unit of Israeli undercover soldiers in disguise whom he mistook for Arab attackers.

Almost 20 years after the United States ended its involvement in the Vietnam War, some veterans find themselves in the thick of new dangers in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Disgusted and disaffected, they left the United States to search for a new beginning in the Jewish state and found solace in religion.

The silhouettes turned out to be Israeli undercover sol-

diers disguised as Arabs. Mr. Becker, trained as a sharpshooter, had hit three, badly wounding two of them.

"Afterwards the kids (in the unit) asked me all kinds of questions... They didn't realise a pistol could be that accurate," said Mr. Becker, 47. "I could have taught them a whole lot that would have helped their ambush techniques."

Mr. Becker, his wife and eight children now live in Jerusalem's Old City. He devotes his life to study at a Jewish seminary.

About 100 Vietnam veterans live in Israel and the occupied territories, according to American-Israeli author Eric Lee, who wrote a book about them. He has located four in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All four served in elite combat units in Vietnam. One, former Marine David Ramati, described them as

"action junkies" drawn to living on the edge.

Veteran Kuziel Meir was arrested in March 1990 with another American immigrant and charged with the murder of Aziza Salem Jaber, an Arab woman shot while driving in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba next to Hebron where Mr. Meir could live.

Mr. Meir, who denied the killing, was jailed for 11 months on weapons charges. Police told the court they had found arms in his home including carbines of the type used to kill Mr. Jaber, ammunition crates and a bullet-making machine.

As a medical officer with the green berets, Mr. Meir said he served three tours of combat duty in Vietnam.

"The biggest shock is when you came back, everybody made you out to be a baby-killer," he recalled.

"I got totally disgusted

with American society. I packed up and came here. I was idealistic. I believed this was the only place a real Jew could live."

Mr. Meir immigrated to Israel in 1978 and became a rabbi.

"America is not our home. You can fight and you can die and you can bleed for America but you are still a hymie," he said, using a derogatory term for Jews.

Mr. Meir said he moved to the West Bank for ideological reasons — the belief that the land was given to Jews in the Bible.

In 1988 he settled in Kfir Arba, one of the most militant settlements, where he raised goats and repaired the weapons of other settlers using knowledge he acquired in Vietnam.

He now lives in Kfar Tapuach, home to many activists of the outlawed anti-Arab Kahane Chai (Kahane

Lives) group, though he denies any link to the organisation.

Mr. Meir, his long hair dishevelled and his clothes scruffy, arranged books on metal shelves in a dusty library while he spoke fondly of his friend Baruch Goldstein, the Brooklyn-born settler from Kfir Arba who was massacred in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs last February.

Mr. Meir said he and other like-minded Jews would fight any land-for-peace deal with the Palestinians "even if it entails a war against the government."

Former Marine Ramati, sitting behind his desk in a cluttered office at the metal factory he manages near Hebron, said he moved to Kfir Arba for religious reasons.

"I am doing the best I can to fulfil biblical prophecies."

pocket to open the route towards Paris and, less than a year later, Berlin.

Bearing witness to the ferocity of the battle of Normandy, more than 58,000 Germans, 19,000 Britons, 13,000 Americans and 5,000 Canadians are buried in the region's military cemeteries. An estimated 15,000 civilians were also killed.

The anniversary has captured the imagination of people and spurred a host of events besides the celebrations sponsored by the French government.

Towns and villages grateful for their liberation and eager to secure a slice of the tourist invasion are sponsoring countless concerts, exhibitions, tournaments and parties for veterans.

Hotel rooms are booked solid throughout the region.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1994



Saudi Arabian Petroleum and Resources Minister Hisham Nazer (left) chats with Japanese Prime Minister Toshimasa Hata (right) at the Diet building in Tokyo Tuesday. Minister Nazer is on a week-long visit to Japan to talk with Japanese leaders. At centre is an unidentified interpreter (AFP photo)

Gulf Air sees six per cent growth in next five years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Air operations grew by an average 15 per cent annually in the past three years and a further six per cent is projected in the next five years, its chairman was quoted as saying.

Salim Al Siyabi made the comments to United Arab Emirates (UAE) reporters aboard a new Airbus A-340, which Gulf Air has just received as the first of six long-range A-340s it ordered last year. Another six Airbus A-320s will be delivered in the next few years, raising its Airbus fleet to 24.

Mr. Siyabi, whose comments were published in the UAE semi official daily Al Ittihad, said Gulf Air was among the fastest growing airlines in the Middle East, which also includes 18 Boeings and a few ageing Tristars.

Mr. Siyabi said Gulf Air had made net profits of between \$40 million and \$50 million a year over the past three years. Turnover reached \$1 billion in 1993 and is expected to remain high in 1994.

"Gulf Air has chalked out a plan which projects a growth of six per cent annually in the next five years. This means Gulf Air will continue to make profits during this period," he said.

"Concerning financing of the six Airbus A-340s, the company will invite international financing institutions for securing the funds."

He said Gulf Air was conducting a study on privatisation, which has been on the cards for several years.

Experts said the privatisation, which would be open only to citizens from owning countries, was prompted by growing competition, and expectations of rapid growth in air traffic in the Middle East.

The Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation, a joint investment venture owned by six regional governments, is carrying out the privatisation study, according to its vice president Hisham Razzouq.

"The successful planning and implementation of the Gulf Air privatisation will go a long way in encouraging the GCC states to accelerate the privatisation programmes currently under review in the region," he said.

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon, which has no oil reserves of its own, may opt to expand the capacity of its Tripoli refinery beyond domestic needs to start exporting refined products, Oil Minister Asaad Rizk said.

The option emerged in talks with foreign oil companies on a proposed joint venture to rehabilitate, expand and operate the war-damaged plant, Mr. Rizk told Reuters.

The state-owned refinery had a 20,000 barrels per day (b/d) capacity before the 1975-90 civil war but is now inoperative.

Mr. Rizk has been seeking a foreign partner to restore it and raise capacity to 50,000 b/d out of Lebanon's requirement of 80,000 b/d of refined products.

But Mr. Rizk said in an interview Lebanon had the facilities to become an exporter, and some companies interested in the project wanted to raise the refinery's capacity to 100,000 b/d to make it feasible.

Mr. Rizk believed he could overcome parliamentary opposition to the project despite last week's rejection by two parliamentary committees of a government bill for semi-privatisation of oil refineries

and other state utilities.

He said he told one panel a joint venture with a foreign company was the only way to revive the refinery because the personnel who ran it before the war were reaching retirement age.

With Lebanon's existing terminals, tank farms and incoming pipelines, it would be stupid not to go ahead with the project, Mr. Rizk told the paper.

"No European country has such facilities," he explained. "This is the future, and I am convinced that with these facilities we can even enlarge our refineries and export refined products, especially if we can get Arabian Light from the Saudi Arabian pipeline."

Lebanon is linked to pipelines from Syria and Iraq and the Trans Arabia Pipeline (Tapline), although they are not operating.

Asked if he had issued tenders for the project, Mr. Rizk said it was difficult to do so because each oil company or group of companies had its own conditions and terms.

"Some want just to keep the refinery at 50,000 b/d. Others would like to go to 100,000 b/d to be feasible and to be interesting for them perhaps to

export refined products," he said.

But Lebanon was unable to take strategic decisions by itself because it no longer had the skilled oil industry personnel, Mr. Rizk added.

Last Friday he signed a contract with Beicip Frana, a state-owned French company, for a six-month study on planning oil refining in Lebanon that would give the government the regional information needed to formulate a policy.

Mr. Rizk said delay in finding a partner for the Tripoli project was due to the need for a joint venture — which meant semi-privatisation of the plant and therefore required parliamentary approval.

The two committees rejected an omnibus bill on joint ventures to run Lebanon's posts, electrical power stations, public transport, railway and refineries complaining that it gave no details of the projects or proposed terms.

Mr. Rizk said he agreed to send parliament a bill on semi-privatisation of refineries only that would give all the information needed.

He said the contract would be worth at least \$130 million and last a maximum 15 years, the government would retain 20 per cent of capital and production would be at least 50,000 b/d.

"They (parliament) are right. The government asked for a blank cheque for everything," Mr. Rizk said. "I told them I would prepare a very detailed project if they promised to study it and take very few weeks to approve it."

"They agreed... Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri told me: 'Yes, go and prepare this. I think I convinced them that the only way to rehabilitate the refinery is semi-privatisation,'" he said.

Mr. Rizk also said that Lebanon hopes its first offshore drilling for oil will start off its northern coast in a year.

Two U.S. oil companies,

Pecten and Arco, have bought the results of a seismic survey carried out last year off the northern port of Tripoli, he told Reuters.

Two more companies, one U.S. and one Dutch, were expected to buy it this week, Mr. Rizk added.

He said he realised oil companies would be cautious about entering the venture because of low world oil prices, political uncertainty in the Middle East and the financial risk involved.

"It's very expensive and they are not going to start doing this onshore survey if they are not sure of selling the package to companies," Mr. Rizk said.

Lebanon currently imports all its oil requirements equivalent to 80,000 b/d of refined products.

Any company which signed a contract would have a bear the full risk, Mr. Rizk added.

"If they drill and find nothing, in our tender we don't pay anything."

But he said: "The structures we have found (off Tripoli) are very interesting because they are similar to those in Syria where oil has been found."

Mr. Rizk expected the companies to take six months to decide whether to bid. The winning company would then need six months to prepare to bring up a platform and start drilling.

"This is why I said it should take one year to start drilling," Mr. Rizk said.

He said an offer by Schlumberger subsidiary Geco-Prakla to do an onshore seismic survey of the whole of Lebanon free of charge depended on the interest of oil companies in buying the results.

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The ANC, which based its campaign for the April 26-29 first all-race election on the promise of the RDP, had originally said the plan would cost 39 billion rand (\$10.6 billion).

The RDP aims to create 2.5 million jobs, build one million houses and electrify another 2.5 million, provide 10 years of free education to all and redistribute 30 per cent of all farmland to blacks.

The ballooning of the estimated cost followed studies by the ANC's National Institute for Economic Policy, which is headed by Max Silus, an ANC parliamentarian.

Mandela seeks to expand S. Africa's trade links

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa will soon begin trade talks with the European Union, the United States and southern African neighbours and will look at other ways of expanding trade links, President Nelson Mandela said Tuesday.

He told parliament in his first state-of-the-nation address the negotiations would aim "to provide a stable and mutually beneficial framework for our international economic relations."

"We will also be looking very closely at the question of enhancing South-South cooperation in general as part of the effort to expand our economic links with the rest of the world," he stressed.

Mr. Mandela said his government of national unity would "address all other matters that relate (to) the creation of an attractive investment climate for both domestic and foreign investors."

The government, he added, had already started "to address the important question of our trade policy, guided by our GATT commitments and the determination systematically to open the economy to global competition in a carefully managed process."

South Africa is looking at formal links with the European Union, its biggest trading area.

The United States is also seeking to expand trade ties follow-

ing the end of apartheid rule and the lifting of sanctions.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration as South Africa's first black president on May 10, has urged American companies to move in now.

On southern African links, Mr. Mandela specifically mentioned Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania.

It attended its first formal SADC meeting in Lesotho last week.

Meanwhile, the African National Congress said that the estimated cost of President Mandela's ambitious plan to wipe out apartheid's backlog has more than doubled.

Jay Naidoo, minister without portfolio and author of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), told The Star newspaper that the plan will cost 89-90 billion rand

(\$21-\$24 billion) over five years.

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Fighting flares as France calls for new Bosnia talks

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb and Muslim forces clashed in northern Bosnia as rival faction leaders gathered for talks in France Tuesday aimed at ending the two-year-old war in the former Yugoslav republic.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the negotiations would determine whether the warring parties were ready to make peace and threatened to pull out French peacekeepers from former Yugoslavia if they were not.

"If the parties do not want to make peace, the peace which we are proposing, then our soldiers have no further role on the ground," Mr. Juppe told reporters in Paris. "With a contingent of 6,800, France is the biggest contributor to the 34,000-strong United Nations Protection Force."

The French government has already indicated it is considering cutting its force down to around 5,000, partly because of troop rotation and partly because of its frustration at lack of progress towards peace.

Mr. Juppe said the meeting in Talloires in eastern France Wednesday would shed light on whether the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim-led government now in alliance with the Croats were really sincere about peace.

Without naming him, he expressed concern at statements by Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic in Paris Monday that the Bosnians wanted to fight to regain territory

taken by the Serbs rather than accept an unjust carve-up of his country.

Mr. Izetbegovic Monday dismissed as "unacceptable" a plan to award 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslims and Croats and 49 per cent to the Serbs.

This formula had been proposed by the international contact group of officials from major Western powers and Russia, who will be hosting Wednesday's talks.

The Bosnian Serbs announced that Momcilo Krstajic, the hardline parliamentary speaker, and Foreign Minister Aleks Bubal had left for France to attend the talks.

In Sarajevo, officials said the Bosnian delegation would include Prime Minister Haris Siljdzic and Vice-President Ejup Ganic.

Bosnian Croat leader Krešimir Zubak would also attend the closed-door session.

As preparations for the talks got underway, the United Nations reported fighting in northern Bosnia over the past 24 hours after a Muslim-led army attack on Serb positions.

"There's heavy fighting going on there, judging by the amount of ammunition they're using," U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Dacre Holloway told Reuters.

The Muslim-dominated Bosnian army in Tesanj was

attacking Serb positions in an apparent attempt to advance to a road west of the northern Bosnian town. "It looks they might be trying to push towards the road," Maj. Holloway said.

The U.N. reported significant shelling in the area with 12 rounds a minute during one half-hour period.

He said Muslim forces shelled Serb-held Brcko in northern Bosnia Monday evening.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said six people were wounded, one seriously. Muslim controlled Sarajevo Radio said three civilians were killed and about 10 wounded in the Brcko area Monday evening as a result of Serb shelling.

In France, U.N. chief Boutros Ghali said ending an arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims could worsen the conflict in the region.

"There is a danger: what if you lift the embargo, what about the countries that want to aid Serbia?" He told the newspaper Ouest-France. "It's not as simple one imagines."

His comments coincided with a campaign by Bosnia's Muslim-led government to end the embargo. It argues that it has tied its hands in the war in Bosnia.

Mr. Izetbegovic was in France Monday to lobby French leaders on the issue, but the French government remains apposed to any lifting of

the arms blockade.

Meanwhile, as France talked of pulling forces out, New Zealand announced it was sending 250 troops to serve alongside a British peacekeeping battalion in Bosnia.

Prime Minister Jim Bolger said his government would dispatch a reinforced infantry company to serve alongside the British battalion.

Mr. Bolger, stressing Wellington's duties as a founder of the United Nations and current Security Council member, brushed off suggestions Bosnia was too distant and too dangerous.

"There is not and cannot be any moral justification for saying 'if it's close to New Zealand we're interested, if it's far away, count us out,'" he told parliament.

In a later television interview, Mr. Bolger added: "It would be quite wrong for New Zealand to say we only go where it's easy, but others can go where it's tough."

An opinion poll revealed Tuesday that some 68 per cent of French people would favour French military intervention on behalf of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, but only in the framework of a joint U.S.-European operation.

Were France to take such an initiative on its own, 77 per cent of people would oppose it, according to a survey by the polling institute IFOP for publication in Wednesday's *Globe-Hebdo* magazine.



A Catholic priest conducts graveside services for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at Arlington National Cemetery May 23 (AFP photo)

Jackie, JFK reunited at Arlington

WASHINGTON (R) — The eternal flame now flickers over the graves of both John F. Kennedy and his widow, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

On a sunny hillside at Arlington National Cemetery, to the reading of scripture and chirping of birds, Jackie was reunited with her husband 31 years after she lit the eternal flame honouring his memory.

Her coffin was carried in the final chapter of the Camelot legacy, played out before members of a larger-than-life family whose great wealth and power never shielded them from a relentless tragedy.

Here was her brother-in-law, Senator Edward Kennedy, standing over the graves of John and Robert, two brothers lost to assassins' bullets.

And there was John Kennedy Jr. reading scripture of the second coming, grown up now from the young John-John bravely saluting his father's wagon-borne casket as it rolled on the way to Arlington in 1963.

He and his sister, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, knelt and kissed their mother's coffin at the graveside service. John Jr.'s hand lingered on his father's headstone as well.

"Whether she was soothed a nation grieving for a former president, or raising children with the care and the privacy they deserve, or simply being a good friend, she always seemed to do the right thing in the right way," President Clinton said in a eulogy.

"May the flame she lit so long ago burn ever brighter here and always brighter in our hearts. God bless you friend, and farewell," said Mr. Clinton, who was joined by his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Onassis died last Thursday of cancer of the lymph system. She was 64.

"Jackie was too young to be a widow in 1963, and too young to die now," said Edward Kennedy.

Her death has prompted yet another look by America at the legend of Camelot, from the photogenic couple's royal-like reign at the White House, to Jackie, wearing a blood-stained outfit on the flight from Dallas to Washington accom-

panying her husband's body. She was actually a widow twice. Her second husband, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis died in 1975, leaving her a vast fortune. A worldwide symbol of jet-set glamour, she summed up the essence of elegance, grace and style in one word recognisable to millions — Jackie.

"She held us together as a family and a country. In large part because of her, we could grieve and then go on. She lifted us up, and in the doubt and darkness she gave her fellow citizens back their pride as Americans. She was then 34 years old," he said in a private funeral service at the St. Ignatius Loyola Roman Catholic Church in New York.



Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg kneels at the foot of her mother's casket as her brother John Kennedy Jr. (left) looks on during graveside ceremony for former U.S. first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Onassis was buried next to her first husband U.S. President John Kennedy at Arlington Cemetery in Washington (AFP photo)

N. Korea proposes new truce watchdog

SEOUL (Agencies) — Communist North Korea Tuesday proposed establishing a new watchdog body to oversee the fragile truce along its tense border with the South.

The (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Pyongyang had proposed the new forum at a meeting of liaison officers at the border village of Panmunjom.

A U.S. military spokesman in Seoul confirmed there was a meeting between North Korean and American officials but declined to give details.

But he said the U.S.-led United Nations Command would not recognise any change to the long-established Military Armistice Commission (MAC), guardian of the truce that halted the 1950-53 Korean War.

KCNA quoted the North's chief liaison officer as saying during the meeting that "with a view to preventing a war on the Korean peninsula ... the Supreme Command of the KPA (Korean People's Army) had instituted the Panmunjom mission of the KPA as a new negotiating body, replacing the MAC."

The Northern officer accused the United States of bringing the Korean peninsula to the brink of war by deploying Patriot missiles and other weapons in the South, KCNA said.

The North announced its intention this month to withdraw from the MAC, which it has boycotted since a South Korean general was appointed head of the five-person United Nations delegation in March

1991, replacing an American. Military commanders for North Korea, the United States and China, which aided the North in the Korean War, are signatories to the truce, which has never been converted to a peace treaty.

The North recently described the armistice as a "useless piece of paper" but the United States says it remains in full effect.

The North, defying the United Nations by refusing to allow full inspection of its nuclear facilities by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials, has proposed negotiations with the United States to replace the armistice with a peace agreement.

But the South has rejected the proposal, saying the North should first try to allay Western fears that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons.

There are 36,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, a legacy of the Korean War when a U.S.-led United Nations alliance fought off a Northern invasion. They support a South Korean force of 650,000.

Meanwhile, a high-level two-man IAEA mission from the left Beijing Tuesday for the North Korean capital Pyongyang to discuss the controversial replacement of fuel rods at a nuclear reactor.

They will work out inspection procedures with three IAEA inspectors who have been in North Korea since May 17.

"We are going for technical talks and expect to be there for three or four days," said one of the mission members, Demetrios Pericos.

The minister said, however, that the north is believed to have been extracting plutonium, which can be used to make nuclear arms, since 1985.

China plans 'women's island' tourist resort

BEIJING (R) — The special economic zone of Zhuhai in southern China is setting up a "women's tourist island" to attract female travellers, an official newspaper said. The island, just off Zhuhai near the Portuguese enclave of Macau, will be "a paradise especially for women," the Economic Evening News of Jiangsu province said in an edition seen in Beijing Tuesday. "Women's Tourist Island will reflect all of the special characteristics of women," the newspaper said. "It will feature women's records, women's entertainment, women's mysteries and fairies coming to earth," the paper said, adding that it would also offer a holiday village and a duty-free store. "Tourism officials say the idea of a women's island can be implemented and will bring in visitors because data shows that women are far more likely to be tourists than men," the newspaper said. It added Zhuhai hoped to have the resort completed by 1995 when China will host a world women's conference.

Thieves use storm drain to tunnel into Thai bank

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thieves crawled through a 500-metre long storm drain and tunneled their way into a Thai bank over the weekend, making off with nearly \$100,000 in cash, news reports said Tuesday. The storm drain connected with a 20-metre long, 22-centimetre (nine-inch) wide sewer that led to a branch of the Thai Military Bank, the reports said. After enlarging the sewer, the thieves then punched through the 15-centimetre concrete floor of the bank here in the Thai capital. Once inside the bank they forced their way into the vault. Police found shovels, gloves, chisels, crowbars, a hammer, a circular grinding stone, dead batteries, empty plastic bottles and bags of bread in the tunnel, they said. Missing from the vault were 11 sacks containing 2,482,700 baht (\$99,300) and four small sacks of change. The bank was unguarded over the weekend and had no security devices. It previously was an auto parts store. Police believe at least two people were involved in the robbery, one of whom had inside knowledge of the bank, and estimate it may have taken them a week to tunnel into the building, the reports said.

Chinese agency announces Cannes award for Zhang

BEIJING (AFP) — China's Xinhua News Agency announced briefly Tuesday the two prizes won by Zhang Yimou's film *To Live* at the Cannes Film Festival. But it made no commentary on the awards and radio, and television remained silent. The movie shared the Grand Jury's award with Russian Nikita Mikhalkov's *Burnt By The Sun* and its star Ge You won best actor award. Ministry for Film and Television officials said they had no comment. The Chinese authorities were angered because *To Live* was shown without being approved by the official censor. Zhang, 43, did not attend the festival because his film had not received a censor's visa. Last year Beijing was embarrassed because the Golden Palm Award at Cannes was won by Chen Kaige's *Farewell To My Concubine* which was unfilmed to Communist China. *To Live*, co-produced with Taiwan money, tells the story of a Chinese family from the 1940s through the Cultural Revolution and does not present the glorious image of Communist China the authorities prefer. Zhang has had several movies censored by the authorities in the past. But last year he was awarded China's two highest awards for his movie *The Story Of Qiu Ju*.

Vietnamese jailed in motorcycle racing cases

HANOI (R) — A Hanoi court has handed down stiff jail terms to two young bikers for offences committed during illegal motorcycle races, an official newspaper said Tuesday. The city daily Hanoi Moi said the court sentenced Truong Tuan Anh, 22, to 22 months in prison and Nguyen Xuan Thi, 18, to 10 months for "creating disorder" and fighting during races on the night of May 1. They were the first people jailed in the two years since young people began motorcycle racing on weekend and holiday nights on main streets and around the capital's central Hoan Kiem Lake.

South Africa's white military chief keeps job

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's new all-race government said Tuesday the country's white military chief would retain his job and have the task of forging a fully representative force from regular troops and former guerrillas.

Defence Minister Joe Modise, speaking before President Nelson Mandela unveiled his promised reconstruction plan in parliament, told a news conference General Georg Meiring would run the new South African National Defence Force.

Mr. Modise said Gen. Meiring, the former South African Defence Force chief, had been appointed for five years to oversee a military all South Africans could accept.

"The task on General Meiring's shoulders is to build a legitimate credible and fully representative defence force that will enjoy the full support and cooperation of all the people of South Africa," he said.

The new force combines the old regular forces and former black guerrillas.

Mr. Modise said the size of the defence force was expected

to increase by some 30,000 men to more than 100,000 as soldiers from the Umkhonto We Sizwe — Spear of the Nation (MK), and other armed forces are integrated into the national army.

But a "rationalisation" process would follow, aiming to end up with a standing force of 70,000 men, Mr. Modise said.

The minister would not be drawn into commenting on the fate of other ranking generals in the country's armed forces, nor would he say when he expected the first black general to be named.

Officers from the British Armed Forces would act as independent observers to monitor the integration and rationalisation processes, he said, pledging to maintain the standards of the South African army, considered to be by far the best in Africa.

Meanwhile, African National Congress (ANC) secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa was Tuesday elected to chair South Africa's Constitutional Assembly — the body that will give final shape to the new basic law.

WASHINGTON (R) — The role of the United Nations has grown in importance to U.S. diplomacy, says Cameron Hume, the author of the newly published book *The United Nations, Iran and Iraq*.

Mr. Hume discussed the book's conclusions during a briefing at the Foreign Press Centre in Washington. A U.S. diplomat on sabbatical at the U.S. Institute of Peace, Mr. Hume has served in Lebanon, Syria and Tunisia and will soon take up his new post as chief of the political section at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Hume previously served at the United Nations from 1986 to 1990 in the time-period he explores in his book. "During that time there was a major change in the way the Security Council operated," in that it now in, in terms of conducting diplomacy at the U.N., he said.

Expert sees growing importance of U.N. to U.S. diplomacy

evolved from clashing to cooperating, he said.

By the mid-1980's, the major powers had moved from clashing to finding a way to cooperate in the Security Council, notably when dealing with the Iran-Iraq war, he noted. By the 1990's, he said, that "cooperation took a quantum leap forward," due in part to the international community's commitment to reverse Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Despite this newfound cooperation, Mr. Hume said the international community is still confused as to how the United Nations should operate in the "new world order."

"We still don't understand adequately the consequences of the new world that we live in, in terms of conducting diplomacy at the U.N.," he said.

Agreed by what they saw as a move to freeze them out of policy-making, the leftist party stood out.

Socialist Chairman Tomio Murayama led his party out of the coalition the day Mr. Hata was named, stripping it of its majority. He said Tuesday that Mr. Hata now had little choice but to resign along with his cabinet or call early elections.

"It's an ill-fated and unnatural minority cabinet," Mr. Murayama told a Tokyo news conference.

"The prime minister will have to decide either to resign or dissolve parliament... some time after the state budget (for 1994/95) is passed."

Mr. Hata told parliament this week he was determined to pass the long-delayed budget, which should have taken effect on April 1, before the close of the current session. Although it is due to end on June 29, the session could be extended for several weeks to allow adequate time to debate the budget bill — thus prolonging Mr. Hata's hold on power.

Mr. Murayama ruled out the possibility his party would rejoin the coalition in its current form even if Mr. Hata and his entire cabinet resigned.

"We're not going back to this coalition government," he said. "It has to be dismantled first and then we'll be ready to cooperate in forming a new government."

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Sports

Jazz find it hard to handle Olajuwon

HOUSTON (AP) — Inside. Outside. Double team. Triple team. One on one. It did not make any difference.

The Utah Jazz could not stop Hakeem Olajuwon, who had just another average night Monday as the Rockets topped the Utah Jazz 100-88 to take the opening game of their Western Conference final.

Olajuwon finished with 31 points on 12-of-20 shooting and four blocks, bolstering his case for the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award.

"We couldn't contain him," Jazz coach Jerry Sloan said. "He's one of the toughest guys in the league to contend with. We double him and somebody else is open."

Utah's Felton Spencer, given the primary task of trying to stop Olajuwon, said he thought he did a good job.

"We didn't expect to stop him, just slow him down," Spencer said. "Somebody told me before this game it wasn't going to get any easier, and they were right."

"I don't plan on stopping him. That would be silly for me to think of. He's just so talented, he's going to get his shot."

Olajuwon said Spencer did not make things easy.

"Spencer is a very big guy," Olajuwon said. "He made me work for every point. Those (31) were difficult points. I didn't feel any pressure. My job is to do whatever is necessary."

"This is just the first game. The second will be tougher."

Olajuwon blew the game open in the fourth quarter, hitting Houston's first nine points and removing any thoughts the Jazz may have had of a comeback.

First a layup on which he



Hakeem Olajuwon

was fouled to make it a three-point play, then a 12-foot jumper, then another layup and a 16-foot jumper.

"I think I shot the ball very well," he said.

"When Hakeem is going like that — he's inside and our outside game is working — we're hard to beat," said Houston's Mario Elie.

"It's a lot of fun," Spencer said. "I like the challenge of trying to stop the MVP. I've seen him play even better than he did tonight and tonight he played pretty good. They were hitting the open shots and

Hakeem was being Hakeem."

With Olajuwon occupying the Jazz inside, the Rockets lit the scoreboard from the outside, sinking 10 3-pointers.

"They they would hit

shots on the perimeter like

they did tonight and Olajuwon

is on the inside, they're difficult to stop," Sloan said. "He's got a shot off so quick he's hard to deal with."

"He's so quick he's difficult to double team. By the time the second guy gets there, he's already got his shot off. Everything we did didn't work out."

4 killed in Australia race crash

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — Four people died as a Ferrari sports car crashed into a parked official vehicle during the third day of the Cannonball Run on a main highway south of here Tuesday.

The Ferrari F40, which had clocked the fastest times on the first two days, ran off the road on a sweeping bend, skidded on gravel, and rammed the other vehicle at a checkpoint 95km (60 miles) south of Alice Springs.

The Ferrari driver, officially identified as Akira Kabe, a Japanese dentist, died instantly along with his co-driver and two race officials in the checkpoint vehicle.

Police said names were being withheld until relatives were informed.

About 140 cars, some of which had been reaching 300kmh (187mph) on unrestricted roads, were racing from Darwin to the Landmark Ayers Rock in central Australia and back.

Northern Territory was chosen by race organisers because it has the only roads in Australia without speed limits.

Race director Allan Moffat will decide Friday whether the race should continue Wednesday is a scheduled rest day.

The Automobile Association (AA) of the Northern Territory predicted it would be the last of its kind because of the tragedy.

"There will have to be a reassessment," AA local manager Malcolm Pash said. "I think you will find it will be the first and last race."

Bruguera, Courier win in French Open; Sabatini, Navratilova upset

PARIS (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini joined Martina Navratilova as a stunned first-round upset victim Tuesday at the French Open. Sergi Bruguera and Jim Courier, the men's finalists last year, advanced in straight sets.

Sabatini, a former U.S. Open champion, won the first set against 16th-ranked Silvia Farina of Italy, then stumbled to a 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 defeat. It was the first time since the 1985 U.S. Open that the Argentine, seeded eighth here, lost in the first round of a Grand Slam.

"It's very disappointing," Sabatini said. "It's hard to believe I lost in the first round here. I like the tournament, I always played well here."

Courier, the 1991 and 1992 champion but now only the no. 7 seed, downed France's Jean-Philippe Fleurant, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

"I always feel good when I come here. This time of year, this is my home," Courier said.

"I'll play the best I can, and hopefully it will take me a long way."

Bruguera, a surprise victor over Courier in last year's final, is seeded only sixth and has been struggling with shoulder problems. But the Spaniard's muscular baseline game looked devastating in the early stages of his 6-1, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) win over 68th-ranked Martin Damini of the Czech Republic.

Bruguera let a 5-2 lead in the third set slip away before recovering.

"I thought the match was over. I realize I stopped moving my legs," he said. "It was difficult for me to get back into the match."

He said he feels more pressure this year as defending champion.

"Last year I was maybe more relaxed. Nobody was watching me. Now, people are watching and it's more difficult to play like this."

Sabatini, without tournament title in more than two years, lost on the same no. 1 court where she blew a 6-1, 5-1 lead to Mary Joe Fernandez in last year's quarterfinals. This time, Sabatini has two break-points to go up 4-1 in the third set, but crumpled.

Navratilova was expected to meet top-seeded Steffi Graf in the semifinals June 2. Instead, Miriam Oremans, a 21-year-old Dutch upstart with a 1-8 record this year, knocked Navratilova out of the tournament on its opening day.

The 6-4, 6-4 loss was rude



Martina Navratilova holds a racket that she smashed when leaving the court after bowing out of the French Open tournament Monday (AP photo)

The no. 14th seed, Zina Garrison-Jackson, lost her first-round match for the fourth time in a row here, falling to Silke Frankl of Germany, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, in the first round.

Another loser was unseeded Tracy Austin, the former U.S. Open champion trying a comeback at 31. Martina Kochta of Germany routed her, 6-1.

The women's no. 2 seed, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, avoided the upset epidemic with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Argentina's Florencia Labat.

No. 15 Hana Sukova of the Czech Republic beat Laurence Courtois of Belgium, 6-3, 7-5.

Among the men, 13th-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden beat Jordi Burillo of Spain, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Navratilova was expected to meet top-seeded Steffi Graf in the semifinals June 2. Instead, Miriam Oremans, a 21-year-old Dutch upstart with a 1-8 record this year, knocked Navratilova out of the tournament on its opening day.

The 6-4, 6-4 loss was rude

FIFA says no to IOC anti-doping declaration

points in the declaration which could lead to a battle between FIFA and the IOC.

Its concluding article decrees that all Olympic sports must be governed by federations which comply with the declaration — theoretically raising the possibility of soccer's exclusion from the games.

The executive committee supports the struggle undertaken by the IOC and the Olympic family against drug abuse.

"It entirely goes along with that idea, but it cannot go along with the drug abuse declaration signed by other bodies," he added.

"We shall abide by the IOC regulations during the Olympic Games, but outside the Olympic Games it's our baby."

Among the 26 members of the executive committee, FIFA President Joao Havelange — himself a powerful member of the IOC.

Asked about the FIFA decision, an IOC spokesman declined comment, saying the organization had not yet been informed of it by FIFA.

The council, replacing the current tribunal for sports arbitration, is an attempt to avoid sports disputes ending up in the civil courts where they can have unexpected — and costly — results for the major sports federations.

Managerial upheaval could cost Saudis in their first World Cup appearance



Saudi Arabia's national team

Brazilian Jose Candido, who took the Saudis to the Doha tournament, quit over outside interference.

Candido was seen arguing with Saudi officials in the middle of the game against Iraq.

Such input makes the national manager's position precarious.

on "without me."

Former Dutch international Leo Beenhakker was drafted as replacement, but his European approach clashed with the South American style admired by Saudi football officials.

apparently over a call from

Riyadh demanding the substitution of goalkeeper

Mohammed Al Deayea.

After the keeper came off,

the Brazilian was heard to say

the Saudi campaign would go

on "without me."

Former Dutch international

Leo Beenhakker was drafted

as replacement, but his

European approach clashed

with the South American style

admired by Saudi football officials.

manages to be unintelligible

in a range of languages.

At news conferences in the

United States he frequently

prefers to speak in Spanish

with a translator.

Milutinovic is having to

train in Mission Viejo

knowing the nucleus of the

World Cup team is in Europe, but

he does not consider that to be a liability.

"This is a simple game," he

says. "Romano plays a com-

pletely different style for Bar-

celona than he does for Brazil

but he adapts.

"The system means noth-

ing — if you know your

players, you play, if not then

you look for excuses."

And Milutinovic does

know his players, earning in-

tense loyalty from them for

his style, which includes tak-

ing part in practice games

with them.

He does not shout orders

from the sidelines like other

coaches but gets out and

shows the players what he

wants.

Defender Jeff Agoos said:

"I have great respect for

Bora because he's been

around. Bora's style empha-

ises ball possession and de-

fense."

Milutinovic talks lovingly

about the game and tactics

but is keen to stress that it is

not his entire life.

"I think I am a normal

person, I have experience but

I never think soccer all the

time. I like to walk on the

beach with my daughter or

play tennis — I am very

sentimental."

In 1986, he guided Mexico to

the quarter-finals.

The record speaks for itself

— which is as well for a coach

who, as some who have met

him are inclined to joke,

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy seeks more say in world affairs

ROME (R) — Italy's new Foreign Minister Antonio Martino Tuesday said his country wanted a greater say in international affairs and could not accept being excluded from the group of powers seeking a peace settlement for Bosnia. In a newspaper interview from Washington, where he was to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. Martino mapped out a vigorous approach to foreign policy by the new conservative cabinet of tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. His coalition of free-marketeers, neo-fascists and federalists, sworn in this month, has broken 50 years of centrist government in Italy which had traditionally been content with a low key approach to foreign affairs. "What we want is a larger and more incisive Italian presence in the various international organisations," Mr. Martino said. He told *La Repubblica* newspaper that Italy's exclusion from a five-member "contact group" coordinating peace efforts in former Yugoslavia was not acceptable. "I will state clearly that our country should be part of it." The group is made up of five senior officials from the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain. "Our position is clear. Italy must be involved from the start in the decision making process. We cannot accept being left out," Mr. Martino said.

Haiti military charged with abuses

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An Organisation of American States (OAS) commission accused Haiti's military of murder and other serious human rights abuses. The Interamerican Committee on Human Rights, which travelled to the Caribbean country last week, said the human rights situation had deteriorated considerably and that it had reliable reports of 133 extrajudicial executions since February. The delegation said in a statement that most of the incidents occurred in areas believed to be strongholds of support for ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The report said the military, which toppled Mr. Aristide to 1991, would infiltrate villages on the pretext of flushing out subversives and then attack or arrest residents, set fires and rob and destroy homes. The military was carrying on a systematic campaign of intimidation and terror against the Haitian people, according to the commission, which ended its five-day trip to Haiti Friday.

Cambodian troops take Treng

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Government troops have driven the Khmer Rouge out of Treng, the government's original front-line position in northwest Cambodia before an offensive against the rebel capital Phnom Penh two months ago, officials said Tuesday. Royal Armed Forces took Treng Monday, but the number of casualties was still unknown, Defence Minister Tea Banh told AFP by telephone. He added that the town had been completely demolished by the Khmer Rouge. Finance Minister Sam Rainsy told reporters at Phnom Penh airport that the town had fallen, and that "the situation is now exactly the same as the day we started our military operation to attack the Khmer Rouge." He was referring to an ill-fated offensive in which government troops captured Phnom Penh, before losing it one month later, and were driven back to within 15 kilometres of Cambodia's second city of Battambang. But he added that although this was "exactly the same situation as a few months ago... in the meantime we have lost hundreds of lives, millions of dollars... for nothing." Sam Rainsy was seeing off Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, on their way to peace talks with the Khmer Rouge Friday in North Korea. Government and military officials in the capital said they had taken Treng more than three weeks ago, a claim that was refuted by officers in Battambang.

Strong quakes hit Greek islands

ATHENS (AFP) — Four strong earthquakes under the Aegean Sea shook Greek islands for the second day running Tuesday, sending panic-stricken residents into the streets, the Athens Observatory said. The latest tremors, measuring 6.1, 5.7 and 5.0 and 4.9 degrees on the Richter Scale, occurred at 0205, 0215, 0336 and 0605 GMT. All had their epicentre in the same spot under the Aegean Sea some 240 kilometres (150 miles) northeast of Athens. They were felt especially on the islands of Chios and Lesbos, as well as in Athens. The tremors caused no casualties and only minor damage, notably cracks in older houses, authorities said. The shock waves also shook the Izmir region on the Turkey's western coast and were felt as far away as Istanbul, the Kandilli Seismological Institute in Istanbul said. An earthquake measuring 6.1 degrees shook the island of Crete, further south, Monday, causing slight damage.

3 strong quakes rock Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Three powerful earthquakes, the strongest of which measured 6.2 on the Richter Scale, shook Taiwan Tuesday but no damage or casualties were reported, the Central Weather Bureau and police said. The strongest quake, centred in the sea 100 kilometres east of Hualien, was recorded at 0400 GMT. It lasted about 20 seconds and shook buildings in Taipei and other cities, a bureau spokesman said. The same quake was also felt in Japan, the meteorological agency said. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties in Japan. A spokesman for Taiwan's National Police Administration said there had been no reports of damage or casualties. The second quake, measuring 5.3, was centred 100 kilometres east of Hualien, the third, measuring 5.5, was centred 106 kilometres east of Hualien. Two hundred tremors have been recorded since Monday, the bureau spokesman said. Taiwan's eastern coast lies along a fault line.

Damage in millions as storm hits Perth

PERTH, Australia (AFP) — Perth mopped up Tuesday after its widest storm for 20 years left a trail of damage estimated at many millions of dollars. Authorities in the Western Australian capital said it was miraculous there were no serious injuries as house roofs were blown away, power lines brought down and half of the city's million-plus population was plunged into darkness for hours by electricity cuts triggered by winds gusting to 140 kilometres per hour. Emergency crews worked throughout Monday night and all day Tuesday removing fallen trees and live power lines from roads. The State Energy Commission said 50,000 homes were still without power midday Tuesday.

34 drown as boat capsizes in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Thirty-four people, mainly women and children, drowned when a boat packed with wedding guests capsized in southern India, Press Trust of India news agency said Tuesday. Ten people swam ashore as the boat sank Monday in Tungabhadra River in Karnataka state, the agency said quoting police. It said the victims were cruising along the river after the wedding when the accident occurred. The victims included 15 women, 16 children and three men. The agency said all the bodies were recovered.

Major to fight for sovereignty in Euro-pol

LONDON (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major Monday put preservation of Britain's national veto at the heart of the ruling Conservative Party's aggressive campaign for the June 9 European elections. He accused opposition Labour and Liberal Democratic parties of promoting a weak Britain in a "European superstate" — as he addressed the first rally of the campaign in Bristol, southern England. And he warned that opposition policies like a four-day week would sink Europe by making it incapable of competing with Asia. Pledging to maintain the British veto in the Council of Ministers in Brussels on issues such as taxation, foreign policy and immigration, Mr. Major described it as "our insurance policy, our safeguard for our vital interests." And he added: "In doing so we are not just being anti-European, not being the awkward squad. We are just doing our job."

Shiite leader calls on Beirut government to quit

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of pro-Iranian militants Tuesday called for the resignation of the Lebanese government for failing to block an Israeli commando raid that netted a Shiite Muslim guerrilla leader.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hezbollah, also vowed to punish Israel for Saturday's abduction of Mustafa Dirani, leader of the Believers Resistance.

The resignation call spotlights tension between Shiite militants and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government, which officially embraces the guerrillas' fight to remove Israeli forces from South Lebanon, but is often irritated by the challenge they pose to its authority.

Disarming Hezbollah has been a key Israeli demand in negotiations with Lebanon under the framework of the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Nasrallah accused the government of "incompetence" in dealing with Mr. Dirani's abduction.

"The least that could be done if there is a sense of responsibility and dignity is for the government and its head to resign immediately," Mr. Nasrallah told a packed news conference.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Hariri or any of his cabinet members.

Emerging from a meeting

with President Elias Hrawi Tuesday, Mr. Hariri denounced the Israeli raid as "an act of piracy in violation of all international norms."

He said Lebanon was considering lodging a complaint with the U.N. Security Council.

"I don't deny that their (Israelis) arm is long and they have experience," Mr. Nasrallah said. "But retaliation is coming from where they expect it and from where they don't."

Hezbollah, Iran's standard-bearer in Lebanon, spearheads a guerrilla campaign to dislodge Israeli forces from a self-proclaimed "security zone" they created in South Lebanon in 1985.

Mr. Dirani, 34, was seized from his home in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in a 6-hour operation carried out by 40 Israeli commandos.

They came aboard two helicopters that flew in from the sea over the central mountains behind Lebanon and Syria army lines and down into the valley to capture Dirani at the village of Qasabah.

Israel said it wanted Mr. Dirani for interrogation on the fate of Israeli airman Ron Arad, who has been missing since his plane was shot down over South Lebanon in October 1986.

Israeli officials have said Mr.

Dirani held Arad for two years then sold him to Iranian Revolutionary Guards in the Bekaa city of Baalbek.

Mr. Nasrallah said neither Mr. Dirani nor Hezbollah had any information about Arad.

Hezbollah has been allowed to keep its weapons to fight Israel after most other militia groups that fought the 1975-90 civil war disarmed or disbanded.

But Mr. Nasrallah complained that the government was restricting the guerrillas, without specifying how.

However, he clearly sought to avert any friction with the army, saying: "We are eager to avoid disturbances."

He said Hezbollah was not seeking a showdown, but coordination to "fortify the (domestic) arena to serve the resistance and its symbols and consolidate" national reconciliation.

Relations between Hezbollah and the government have deteriorated since Sept. 13, 1993, when the group staged an unauthorised demonstration that turned bloody.

At least nine Hezbollah members were killed and 35 wounded when troops intervened to end the march in protest over the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed that day.

Hezbollah opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process.



EID IN JERICHO: Palestinian boys enjoy the last day of Eid Al Adha (feast of the sacrifice) holiday in Jericho's oasis. Thousands of Palestinians came to the newly autonomous West Bank town to celebrate the Eid and to welcome the new Palestinian policemen (AFP photo)

COLUMN 10

Researcher sees TV link with depression

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Depressed by what's on television? You may have company. A Penn State University researcher said there has been a "dramatically high" connection between the rise of television and a rise of depression among American young people since World War II. "The social effects of television, broadcasting seven hours per day, must be included as a possible reason for the earlier onset and growth of major depression among the young," said Dr. Paul Kettl, associate professor of psychiatry at Penn State's Milton Hershey Centre.

"Thousands of hours of TV viewing expose our children to repetitive acts of senseless violence and may further distance children from social contacts with peers and family, leading to an increased risk of major depression," he said in a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. In the study, Prof. Kettl compared the incidence of depression among 24-year-olds from 1954 to 1984 with the presence of television among the population. He found that as the presence of television grew, so did depression. "Television showed dramatically high correlations with lifetime prevalence of major depression at age 24," Prof. Kettl said. But he also said other factors contributing to depression among the young could include a rise in two-parent working families, rising divorce rates and increasing drug and alcohol use among the young.

Hanoi gets 1st taste of rock

HANOI (AFP) — Hanoi has had its first taste to live western rock but it could be the last for a while after sultry French siren Patricia Kaas whipped up the sort of youthful exuberance that horrifies Vietnam's strait-laced authorities. Kaas, known as France's answer to Madonna, stormed through her raw-voiced repertoire of rock and blues at the Monday night concert, causing a near riot among the Vietnamese crowd. Authorities had already demanded that the concert organisers remove the word "rock" from posters and adverts in a move indicative of their continuing fear of some Western influences. But they were unprepared for the crowd's reaction to Kaas as hundreds stormed over a barrier into a guest seating area, scattering Hanoi's French expatriate community in their rush to get a closer look at the singer in her tight dress. With temperatures, both emotional and atmospheric, rising alarmingly in the concert hall — more normally used for trade fairs — extra police were drafted in to keep control of the 6,000 crowd. The concert came an abrupt halt with a power cut during the second encore — frequently the way Vietnamese wind down, concerts when things look like getting out of hand. The singer was in the middle of a number called "Come into the Light" when the stage was plunged into darkness. So far this year, the Vietnamese capital has hosted the tamer music of U.S. country star John Denver but with tickets costing \$30 each, few young people attended. Tickets for Kaas' concert, part of her "Tour de Charme," will take her to Ho Chi Minh City and then Cambodia, cost only 20,000 dong (\$2), bringing them within reach of young people hungry for more contact with the West. But officials are growing increasingly concerned with the behaviour of Vietnam's young people, who make up more than half the population and are hungering for even greater freedom as the country opens its doors.

Broken toilet bowls yield money ... in Manila

MANILA (R) — Some of the floods that make Manila life a misery every time it rains are caused deliberately by those who make money pushing stalled cars. Philippine government officials said Tuesday. Broken toilet bowls, plastic bottles and other rubbish is used to block drainage outlets, they said. "It's probably the work of street-corner touts who make money from motorists by pushing their cars or from pedestrians by building them catwalks," a public works spokesman said. The Philippines is hit by more than 20 typhoons a year.

U.N. envoy lands in Kigali amid rebel mortar blitz

KIGALI (R) — U.N. envoy Iqbal Riza flew into Rwanda's capital Kigali Tuesday, with rebels bombarding the hotel where he was due to hold talks on ending bloodshed.

Mr. Riza, travelling with military adviser General Joseph Maurice Baril, landed at Kigali's bomb-shattered airport shortly after 11:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) and was immediately whisked away in a heavily protected military convoy to the U.N. garrison.

The RPF refuses to deal with the government, which appointed itself after President Juvenal Habyarimana and his Burundi counterpart were killed in a rocket attack on a plane bringing them to Kigali on April 6.

The attack triggered massacres blamed largely on Mr. Habyarimana's loyalist army and gangs of his Hutu tribesmen targeting mainly the minority Tutsi, but also Hutus suspected of backing power-sharing with Tutsis.

U.N. sources said it appeared RPF guerrillas were keeping up their offensive with the objective of taking the capital. The city centre is held by the government army or tribal militias.

The rebels seized the airport and the nearby Kanombe government army camp Saturday and Sunday.

It was their most important battlefield victory since Rwanda's three-year civil war, which paused briefly, flared on April 6.

Meanwhile, Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray said Tuesday Australia will send troops to Rwanda as requested by the United Nations until their safety can be assured.

"If I cannot be assured of their protective security, we don't send them in," Mr. Ray told a parliamentary committee, adding he had yet to see the kind of clear U.N. plan for using Australian troops in Rwanda.

"We are intensely disturbed and moved by what is happening in Rwanda," Mr. Ray said. "But the response has to be one that will work. If you take the wrong course, you will just make matters worse."

Russia cannot, we must give the Russians something else."

Apart from nuclear non-proliferation, other issues under consideration for inclusion in a NATO-Russian partnership are the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and peacekeeping in the former Soviet republics.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry called for a rapid deepening of the PFP.

He urged NATO countries to boost defence planning, and to help the former Warsaw Pact members pay for their participation in military and peacekeeping exercises under the PFP.

The U.S. defence secretary added: "We have before us a historic opportunity to build a new trans-Atlantic security system that will ensure peace and stability in all of Europe well into the next century."

Kravchuk accuses Yeltsin over Crimea

KIEV (Agencies) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk accused Russian leader Boris Yeltsin Tuesday of inflaming tension in Kiev's dispute with Crimea, saying he will draft a constitutional assembly that will draft a permanent constitution under the chairmanship of ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa.

Mr. Kravchuk announced his programme to begin eliminating the disparities of apartheid at a marathon first working session of his coalition cabinet Monday.

"A campaign will be launched at every level of government... to rebuild our townships, restore services in rural and urban areas while addressing the issue of job creation and training, especially for our unemployed youth," Mr. Kravchuk said.

Mr. Kravchuk was clearly

in variance with accepted norms, undemocratic and to no one's benefit."

Mr. Kravchuk was clearly referring to comments made by Mr. Yeltsin last week on Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Television saying he had violated diplomatic practice and issued baseless warnings.

"A president can only issue warnings to his own government bodies and ministers and not to the president of other countries," Mr. Kravchuk told a gathering of war veterans, without referring to Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Kravchuk also accused the Russian media of spreading "rabid and dishonest" in-

formation on Crimea, where the local parliament has restored a 1992 constitution de-

nounced by Kiev authorities as an initial step to secession.

Mr. Yeltsin's advisers, he said, were also making statements inflaming the situation.

"This is a serious question because we do not accept at state level attacks on neighbours with which we want long-term friendly and equal relations, not just for a single day," he added.

More than a million displaced people are in desperate need of relief aid which the U.N. hopes to provide.

Thousands more refugees

were fleeing renewed fighting

NATO moves towards consensus on partnership with Russia

with the alliance which reflects its big-power status and goes beyond PFP military cooperation.

Gen. Grachev was expected to convey the insistence of Russian President Boris Yeltsin that such links should be formalised in writing.

NATO has reacted cautiously, particularly because Eastern European members of the PFP are alarmed that it could lead to Russian influence on alliance decisions involving Europe.

The United States has ruled out any formal commitment to special NATO-Moscow links, although U.S. officials say they favour a gradual evolution in such links, particularly if Russia joins the PFP.

"PFP is the key which unlocks the door," a NATO source said, adding that NATO-Russia relations were bound to slow down if Moscow

feared in some Eastern European capitals.

Mr. Ruehe said NATO had not yet agreed which issues should be included in the special partnership with Russia, beyond the principle that it should comprise a "general dialogue on political and security issues."

But he reported agreement on the inclusion of one topic — how to control the spread of nuclear weapons — although he said the United States was opposed to including other issues of nuclear cooperation.

Insiders at the meeting spoke of the general conviction that closer relations between Moscow and NATO were essential to European security and balance.

But they stressed that these links would not be at the expense of Eastern Europe and would never result in the division of Europe into NATO and Russian zones of influence as